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Tuskegee Institute

FOUNDED BY BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, 1881

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, December 27, 1944

For release December 31, 1944

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1944. I find, according to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 2 persons lynched in 1944. This is 1 less than the number 3 for the year 1943, 3 less than the number 5 for the year 1942, 2 less than the number 4 for the year 1941, and 3 less than the number 5 for the year 1940.

One of the persons lynched was a 65 year old minister-farmer who was taken about a mile from his home and shot to death by a mob; the other, a 17 year old trusty at the Tennessee State Training and Agricultural School (a reformatory) was taken from jail and shot to death by a mob.

Both persons lynched were Negroes. The offences charged were: hiring a lawyer to safeguard his title to a debt free farm through which there was possibility that an oil vein ran, 1; murdering wife and daughter of the superintendent of the reformatory, 1.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each are as follows: Mississippi, 1; Tennessee, 1.

Very truly yours,

F. D. Patterson

F. D. Patterson
President

37-1944

Truth Wanted

"The lie detector," said Mrs. Edna Hancock, "lied." TIME-Chicago, Ill.

The veracity of lie detectors was headed for trial last week in a Brooklyn court. On the trial's outcome may hinge whether one Murray Goldman, accused of attempting to rape Mrs. Hancock, goes to prison for ten years. 1-10-44

Mrs. Hancock, a sailor's wife, worked as a nurse's assistant in the Brooklyn State Hospital. One day last July a fellow employe walked into her room in the hospital and discovered Goldman cowering in a corner. Mrs. Hancock, properly indignant, cried wolf, had Goldman arrested for breaking in and trying to rape her. She said she had never seen him before. Goldman retorted that she had indeed seen him before—seven times, and in bed. A jury believed Mrs. Hancock and convicted him.

International

MURRAY GOLDMAN (right) & DETECTOR
Proof is impossible.

The judge, Brooklyn's famed onetime criminal lawyer Samuel Leibowitz, was not quite convinced. When Goldman accurately described a mole on Mrs. Hancock's hip, Judge Leibowitz began to investigate, soon unearthed evidence that Goldman's story might be true. Thereupon the judge called in a psychologist and tested Goldman with a psychogalvanometer which, by recording electrical impulses in a man's skin, is supposed to show whether he answers questions truthfully. The lie detector gave Goldman 100% and Judge Leibowitz gave him his freedom.

Last week, however, the case started a new circle. Accompanied by her sailor husband, with whom she had been vacationing in their home town of Drury, Mo., Mrs. Hancock stormed into the Brooklyn district attorney's office and demanded a new trial. The district attorney, observing that lie-detector tests have no legal standing in New York, promptly promised her one. 1-10-44

Courts in general consider lie detectors too unreliable to admit their findings as conclusive evidence. Psychologists are equally skeptical of them. There are now some half-dozen such instruments, depending variously on measurements of blood pressure, breathing, heartbeats, etc., to detect emotional disturbances that are believed to be associated with lying. But, although some inventors claim better than 85% accuracy, proof of a lie detector's infallibility is obviously impossible to obtain. There is no way of guaranteeing that, in some cases, even the best instrument may not tell the wrong story.

Lynch Law

Post—Washington, D.C. 9-21-44

The brutal lynching in Rome of Donato Carreta, former vice director of the Regina Coeli Prison, is a grim reminder of the foul legacy which 20 years of fascism's organized anarchy have bequeathed to the Italian people. What has happened in Italy may well happen all over Europe unless preventive measures are taken. Lawlessness breeds lawlessness. For 20 years Mussolini and his Fascist bullies obeyed only their atavistic whims. Men and women were arrested, imprisoned, executed, deprived of their liberties and their property merely on the say-so of the dictator and his henchmen. Those singled out for such treatment were helpless. There were no courts to which they could take their grievances, no parliament which could hold the dictator to account, no press which could air the abuses and denounce them. Inevitably, therefore, a vast amount of bitterness was engendered which sooner or later was bound to seek an outlet.

Of course, no government can tolerate mob violence, however great the provocation leading to its expression. Part of the trouble in Italy is that the government is largely a government by courtesy, with the Allied military authorities having a residual police power. The problem is further complicated by the fact that the task of bringing criminal Fascists to book has been slow, a circumstance which may have nurtured the belief in the bruised minds of the injured and bereaved people of Italy that those criminals might get off with light penalties. Mob rule has thus been promoted.

Two important points are underlined by the Rome tragedy. The first is that the task of maintaining security in the occupied countries must not be allowed to fall between two stools—between the local authorities and the army of occupation. The second is that those responsible for the terrible crimes committed by the Nazis, the Fascists and their counterparts in various countries must be brought to justice as early as possible. The French were wise enough to realize this. There is probably a direct relationship between the trial and execution at Algiers of Pierre Puchen and other collaborationists and the absence of mob violence in liberated France.

KILLING OF NEGRO SOLDIER IN CAMP SIBERT, ALA., CALLED LYNCHING; STIMSON, BIDDLE URGED TO ACT

3-25-44

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— On the basis of an on-the-spot investigation conducted in Gadsden by its organizational secretary, Louis E. Burnham, the Southern Negro Youth Congress has sent identical summary statements to Secretary of War Stimson and Attorney General Biddle calling for prompt action by the War Department and the Department of Justice in connection with the killing on Marcch 11 of Raymond McMurray, Negro soldier who had been stationed at Camp Sibert, Alabama.

Emphasizing the fact that McMurray, who was killed by local police officers, had not been convicted of the crime of rape with which he had been charged and that there is strong indication that he was not even in Gadsden at the time of the alleged attack, the statement declared that copious circumstantial evidence, known to the public, leads to the belief that this incident ranks with the most dastardly crimes in the annals of Southern police terror."

Burnham said: 3-25-44

"On Saturday, March 11, Raymond McMurray, age 20, of Chicago, Illinois, a Negro soldier who had been stationed at Camp Sibert, Ala., with the 168th Chemical Company, attached to the 4th Regiment, was brutally murdered at the hands of Gadsden, Alabama, police officers. Copious circumstantial evidence, known to the public, leads to the belief that this incident ranks with the most dastardly crimes in the annals of Southern police terror. It is in light of the righteous indignation which has swept the Negro population and all patriotic citizens of this area that this letter is sent calling for an immediate and thorough investigation by proper authorities in the War Department and the Department of Justice.

"Raymond McMurray had been charged with criminal attack. He had not been convicted — had not even been tried before a court. It was widely believed that the testimony which caused charges to be leveled against him was contradictory. And there is strong indication that the soldier was not even in Gadsden at the time of the alleged attack. Further, more than 200 troops, Negro and white, had been rounded up for questioning, and some were still being held under suspicion at the time McMurray was murdered. Yet officers of the law, having no proof of the innocence or guilt of their victim, fired seven shots into the body of the unarmed soldier. 3-26-44

"The public is asked to believe that, while being driven to the Jefferson County (Birmingham) jail for 'safekeeping,' the soldier lurched from his seat between two armed officers, Jack Fisher, chief of detectives, and Fay Bowman, chief of police of Gadsden, and seized Sheriff O. P. Reagan who was driving the automobile, by the head. And having swallowed this whole, we are asked to believe that the three officers could find no other way to subdue their prisoner save by killing him."

66 yr. old minister lynched in Mississippi, reports NAACP

Mirror—Los Angeles, Calif.
3-27-44

NEW ORLEANS, La.—A lynch-killing of a 66-year-old minister Mar. 26 in Amite county, Miss., because he hired a lawyer to safeguard his title to a 220-acre debt-free farm, has just been revealed in an affidavit sworn to by Eldridge Simmons, son of the murdered man, which was submitted to the Rev. Isaac Simmons went peaceNAACP in New York.

fully about the business of running his farm and had no trouble, according to the NAACP, until it began to be suspected that there was oil on his land. Whites then tried to "muscle in" and take his property away. When they found he had consulted a lawyer, they allegedly got together a small mob and killed him in the presence of his son, who was later driven from the county. 3-28-44

On receiving Eldridge Simmons affidavit, the NAACP immediately asked Governor Thomas L. Bailey of Mississippi to investigate. The NAACP also has asked Attorney General Francis Biddle to examine the possibility that Federal conspiracy statutes have been violated.

The dramatic story of the lynching is told in the following paragraphs from the affidavit:

"On March 26, a group of white men came to my house which is located about a mile from my father's house, both being on property owned by us.

"The man asked me if I knew how the property line ran. I told them I thought I did. They told me to come and show them.

"I got in the back seat of their car and they drove about a quarter of a mile from my father's house. They kept telling me that my father and I were 'smart niggers' for going to see a lawyer. Three walked to my father's house and some time later, I saw them returning with my father. Two were walking on either side of my father, while the other walked behind him, kicking and punching him.

"When they reached the car they made my father get in the front seat. They all got in the car. 8-28-44

"My father begged them and prayed with them not to hurt him or me as they drove down the road. Two of them kept beating me as I sat in the back seat.

"Some distance down the road they stopped the car near a side road where there were lots of thickets. They told my father to get out of the car. He got out and started to run from the road. One of the men leveled the shotgun and fired twice at my father. One reloaded the gun, the other two ran in the direction my father had taken. The man who reloaded the gun ran off in that direction also, then I heard another shot. I begged the men in the car to spare my life.

"Finally, they told me, 'Alright, nigger, we're going to let you go.'

"They told me that they gave me 10 days to get off the place and clear off my tenants. I had two tenants, one of whom worked for me, and also an old man who had no other place to stay.

"When they put me out of the car, I was bloody, ragged and half-blind. I went to my sister's house and told what had happened.

"The news spread. Church meeting broke up and we all went down to where my father lay in the thickets. 8-28-44

"When we got to the thickets, we saw my father dead, lying half on his side. He had been shot three times in the back and some one said his arm was broken. Nearly all of his teeth had been knocked out, and his tongue was cut out.

"At the inquest the verdict was that my father had met his death at the hands of unknown parties."

In the letter to both the Governor and the U. S. Attorney General, the NAACP pointed out: "This case clearly represents a conspiracy on the part of certain individuals (named in the affidavit) to injure, threaten, and intimidate these citizens in the free exercise or enjoyment of rights secured to them by the United States Constitution."

7176

17 Year Old Negro Lynched In Live Oak, Florida

WAS ACCUSED OF WRITING LOVE LETTER TO WHITE GIRL

Daily

The facts in the case still remain a mystery, but it was reported that a 17-year-old Negro was lynched after being released from jail.

It was reported that the girl's father got the letter and had the boy arrested.

It was reported that the lynching occurred on Sunday, January 2, 1944, which was the charge was dismissed and the boy was told that he was free and to go home.

It appears as if a pre-arranged scheme was in the air and the boy had gotten only six blocks from the jail when a mob got hold of him and lynched him.

It was reported that the boy's body was found in a lake face down a few hours later.

It was reported that the lynching occurred on Sunday, January 2, 1944, which was the first in the new year.

Our reporters are still investigating and a more detailed account will be published later.

Lynching should never be, and especially in times of war and strife.

1-22-44

Aged Clergyman Lynched By Land Grabbing Mob

Peoples Voice—New York, N.Y.

8-26-44

NEW ORLEANS—A lynch-killing of a 66-year-old minister last March 26 in Amite County, Miss., because he hired a lawyer to safeguard his title to a 220-acre debt-free farm, has just been revealed in an affidavit sworn to by Eldridge Simmons, son of the murdered man, Rev. Isaac Simmons was going peacefully about the business of running his farm until it began to be suspected that there was oil on his land. Whites then tried to "muscle in" and take his property away. When they found he had consulted a lawyer they got together a small mob and killed him in the presence of his son, who was later driven from the county.

Eldridge Simmons sent his affidavit to the NAACP in New York which in turn has asked Governor Thomas L. Bailey of Mississippi to investigate. The NAACP also has asked Attorney General Francis Biddle to examine the possibility that Federal conspiracy statutes have been violated. 8-26-44

The dramatic story of the lynching is told in the following paragraphs from the affidavit:

"Between 11 am. and 12 o'clock noon, March 26, 1944—which was on a Sunday—a group of white men including Noble Rider, two of his brothers, Harper Dawson, Rabbit Spillman, and a man I did not know, came to my house which is located about a mile from my father's house, both being on property owned by us.

"The men asked me if I knew how the property line ran. I told them I thought I did. They told me to come and show them.

"I got in the back seat of the car and they drove about a quarter of a mile from my father's house. The man I didn't know did the driving. They kept telling me that my father and I were 'smart niggers' for going to see a lawyer.

"They told my father to get out of the car. He got out and started to run from the road. One of the men leveled the shotgun and fired twice at my father.

"When they put me out of the car, I was bloody, ragged and half-blind. I went to my sister's house and told what had happened.

"The news spread. Church meeting broke up and we all went down to where my father lay in the thickets. 8-26-44

"When we got to the thickets we saw my father dead, lying half on his side. He had been shot three times in the back and some one said his arm was broken. Nearly all of his teeth had been knocked out, and his tongue was cut out.

"They held an inquest and gave the verdict that my father had met his death at the hands of unknown parties."

Greed, Jealousy Of 66-Yr.-Old Minister's Farm Land Leads To Brutal Slaying

Weekly—New Orleans, La.

8-12-44

Within a short period of two weeks, two examples of typical "Southern justice" in Mississippi have come to light. Last week a farmer was reported as killed in Jackson, Miss., after he had fled the community in which he lived because jealous white men felt it was wrong for a Negro to own rich farm land, and in the most recent report to come to light, Rev. Isaac Simmons of Liberty, Miss., 66-year-old farmer and owner of 220 acres of timber land, was brutally murdered by whites because he consulted a lawyer when they attempted to take over his rich timber tract. Such is the nature of the treatment accorded Negroes about which Senator Bilbo and Representative Rankin tell the national legislative bodies when they say Southern whites "get along with Negroes" and are able to solve their own interracial problems. 8-12-44

According to the report given to the local branch of the NAACP in a signed affidavit by Eldridge Simmons, 48-year-old son of the deceased man, Rev. Simmons, the coveted estate came to his father and his seven children at the death of Rev. Simmons' father, the late Anthony Simmons, who died in 1929. The estate consisted of 220 acres of debt-free land, a large part of which is covered by timber. 8-12-44

Eldridge Simmons had lived on the estate in Liberty, Amite County, Miss., since his birth until he was forced to leave on March 29, 1944. He was brutally beaten two days before, on March 26, because of the part he played in seeking legal recourse for his father in the matter of settling the dispute over the property when Noble Rider, white, attempted to take over possession of the estate. It developed that there was a possibility of an oil vein running through their property. Young Simmons was jailed for "safe-keeping" for some time after the incident of the murder, which occurred on March 26, and in the latter part of April came to New Orleans, where he has been residing since that time. 8-12-44

In the signed statement to the NAACP, Eldridge Simmons states: "We, my father and his seven children and his grandchildren, farmed the land and lived there on the estate without any trouble until two or three years ago, when a white man wanted to take possession of our property. This man was named Noble Rider. Several months ago my father went to Jackson, Miss., and hired a lawyer to straighten out the property so that no one could take it away from the legal heirs. I have a tax receipt showing that I, Eldridge Simmons, paid taxes on the property as late as February 1, 1944. My father had learned that there was a possibility of an oil vein running through our property and he wanted to keep it for us and our children since all of us except one, Rollin, who is in Chicago, were tending the land. 8-12-44

"I have a letter in my possession that was received by my father on February 1, 1944, from Attorney Frank Mize of Forest, Miss., concerning the property. During February my father cut some timber off the land. Two white men, Vaughn Lee and Noble Rider, left word for him not to cut any more timber off the land. My father wrote to the lawyer about it and was told not to cut any more timber off the land until the lawyer had straightened the matter out. My father obeyed that advice.

"Between 11 o'clock in the morning and noon, March 26, 1944, a group of white men, including Noble Rider, two of his brothers, Harper Dawson, Rabbit Spillman and a man I did not know, came to my house, which was located about a mile from my father's house, both being on the property owned by us. The men asked me if I knew how the property line ran. I told them I thought I did. They told me to come and show them. I went down the road with them for some distance, then we came to a car. . . . They began cursing and kicking me. They beat me and tore my shirt off; called me a 'smart N——r' and told me that they were going to kill me. I begged them not to kill me. All of them beat and kicked me, then told me to get in the car. One of them leveled a double-barrelled shotgun at me and told me to get into the car. I got in the back seat of the car and they drove about a quarter of a mile from father's house. The man I didn't know did the driving. They kept telling me that my father and I were 'smart N——rs' for going to see a lawyer. Three of them remained in the car with me; three walked up to my father's house. 8-12-44

"Some time later I saw three men returning with my father. They were Noble Rider, Harper Dawson and another man, I can't remember who. Noble Rider and the other man were walking on either side of my 66-year-old father, Isaac Simmons, while Dawson walked behind, kicking and punching him. When they reached the car they made my father get in the front seat. They all got in the car. My father begged them and prayed with them not to hurt him or me as they drove down the road. Two of them kept beating me as I sat on the back seat. Some distance down the road they stopped the car near a side road, where there were a lot of thickets. 'Let's take them here,' one of the men said. They told my father to get out of the car. He got out and started to run from the road. One of them leveled the shotgun and fired twice at my father. One reloaded the gun; the other two ran in the direction my father had taken. The man who loaded the gun ran in that direction also; then I heard another shot. A while later the other three returned. They all talked in low tones behind the car. Finally they came around and told me, 'All right, N——r, we're going to get you go.' Noble Rider asked me, 'You don't want to get beat up any more, do you?' I answered, 'I sure don't.' He said, 'If this comes up again, you had better not know anything about it.' 8-12-44

"They told me that they gave me ten days to get off the place

moved out all my stuff, sent my
and his tongue was cut out.
"Someone went and got Consta-
wife to live with her brother, and
George Hazelwood. The con-
got places for my tenants. The day
able went to get the sheriff. They
following the funeral the deputy
held an inquest and gave the ver-
sheriff picked me up and took me
ct that my father had met death
to Magnolia, Miss., and placed me
the hands of unknown parties.
in jail, he said, for safe-keeping.
e buried my father on Wednes-
y, March 29. In the meantime,
and we all went down to where my
father lay in the thickets. That
was about 1 o'clock in the after-
noon. When he got to the thick-
ets, we saw my father dead, lying
half on his side. He had been shot
three times in the back and some-
one said his arm was broken. Near-
ly all his teeth had been broken
and clear off my tenants. I had
two tenants, Willie Huff and A. B.
Robinson, who worked for me. And
also an old man, S. B. Moton, who
had no other place to stay. When
they put me out of the car I was
bloody, ragged and half-blind. I
went to my sister's house and told
what had happened. The news
read. Church meeting broke up

FBI Finds 'Revolting' Crime in Mississippi

By Stander — Des Moines, Iowa

10-26-44

Washington — Attorney General Francis Biddle announced last Thursday that he had authorized U. S. Attorney Toxey Hall, Southern District of Mississippi, to turn over to the local Grand Jury for Amite County, a report on the FBI investigation into the shooting last March of Isaac Simmons, 65 year old Negro preacher, near the town of Liberty, Miss.

The local grand jury, under the direction of State Attorney Joe B. Brown, is now investigating charges that four white men of the community—Harper Dawson and Noble, Narvey and John Ryder, brothers—shot Simmons and drove his son Eldridge, out of the state in a dispute over the ownership of some land which the Simmon's were occupying. The four men were later arrested by the Sheriff of Amite county and released on bond of $1,000 each. 10-26-44

In August, the Attorney General ordered the FBI to make a complete investigation of the case. Thus far, he said, the investigation has not revealed sufficient evidence of the violation of Federal statutes in the shooting of Simmons to permit the Department to enter the case.

"Our investigation shows that a particularly revolting crime has been committeed," the Attorney General said.

Forced by Threats

"A family of Negroes was forced by threats and intimidation to move off of land where they had lived and farmed for several generations. When they resisted, the oldest member of the family, the 65 year old father, and a crippled son were forced into an automobile by several white men who visited the farm, and driven away. 10-26-44

"About half a mile from the home the father was forced out of the car. As the son watched from the back seat, several shot gun blasts were fired into the older man's back, killin ghim. The son was then ordered to leave the state under threats of a similar fate if he reported to the authorities what he had seen.

"In August, no prosecutive action having been taken by the local authorities, I ordered an FBI investigation in order to determine if the facts warranted prosecution by the Federal government. The area within which the Federal government can move to punish violations of civil rights is rigidly restricted by statute. The facts revealed in this case thus far indicate that it dies outside the area of Federal jurisdiction. 10-26-44

"Since, however, a local grand jury is now investigating the matter, I have directed that the evidence obtained by the FBI, as well as all other possible assitance, be made available to the proper state authorities."

Mississippi Grand Jury Gets FBI's Report On Fatal Shooting Of 65-Year-Old Preacher

Age — Herald Tribune, N. Y.

10-23-44

WASHINGTON, D. C.— Attorney General Francis Biddle announced Thursday that he had authorized U. S. Attorney Toxey Hall, Southern District of Mississippi, to turn over to the local Grand Jury for Amite County, a report on the FBI investigation into the shooting last March of Isaac Simmons, 65 year-old Negro preacher, near the town of Liberty, Miss. 10-23-44

The local Grand Jury, under the direction of State Attorney Joe B Brown, is now investigating charges that four whiteme of the community - Harper Dawson and Noble, Narvel and John Ryder, brothers - shot Simmons and drove his son Eldridge, out of the State in a dispute over the ownership of some land which the Simmons's were occupying. The four men were later arrested by the Sheriff of Amite County and released on bond of $1,000 each.

In August, the Attorney General ordered the FBI to make a complete investigation of the case. Thus far, he said, the investigation has not revealed sufficient evidence of the violation of Federal statutes in the shooting of Simmons to permit the Department to enter the case. 10-28-44

"Our investigation shows that a particularly revolting crime has been committed", the Attorney General said.

REWARD IS POSTED IN TENN. LYNCHING

Associated Press Dispatch
Seattle, Washington
11-24-44

PIKEVILLE, Tenn.— Within six hours after, and less than 100 yards from where he admittedly slashed and battered two white women to death, James T. Scales, teen-age Negro trusty at a state reformatory near here, was shot to death by a number of men who removed him from the Pikeville jail.

Victims of the slayings were Mrs. Charles H. McKinnie, 19 years old, and her mother, Mrs. H. E. Scott, who died later in a Chattanooga hospital. Scott is superintendent of the institution, the state training and agricultural school for Negro boys. He was away at the time of the tragedy.

11-29-44

"There will be a full investigation of both the murders and the lynching," asserted Lynn Bomar, State Highway Patrol chief, who took charge on orders of Governor Prentice Cooper. The governor offered a reward of $500 for arrest and conviction of "those guilty in this lynching," first in the state in several years.

Of Federal antilynching legislation, he says, "I believe that the threat of a Federal antilynching law has helped to reduce lynching and that the threat is actually more potent than the law itself would be."

It is highly probable, he says, that concern over national unity is the main factor in holding down the number of racial outbreaks, but he adds that the decline in lynching may be "somewhat exaggerated, because of the increasing popularity of private lynching parties." By "private parties," he said, he means lynchings by small groups of a half dozen or less.

Johnson also says he is dubious about the South's record in the matter of interracial outbreaks.

"The incidence of race riots is in a large part a function of the difference between what the Negro expects and what he gets. In other words, in the South he is more easily controlled by the dominant group because he expects less, while in the North his expectations are much higher but his realization falls so far short that his frustrations are relatively more acute." 10-15-44

Includes Both Races

The Southern Regional Council became a formally organized body in February, outgrowth of the Southern Commission on Interracial Cooperation, formed soon after World War I and a series of racial relations conferences held by white and Negro leaders in Durham, N. C., Richmond, Va., and Atlanta.

The council's board includes 27 Negro members and 37 white. Education and related interests furnish 23 members; business, law and medicine, 14; religion, eight; public office and civic work, nine; journalism, four; labor, four and miscellaneous, two.

Decrease in Lynching, Despite War Stress, May Indicate 'a Maturing American Culture'

Post — Washington, D. C.

10-15-44

By Henry LeSesne

Atlanta, Ga., (AP).—The number of lynchings in the South has been decreasing for some years; however, even amid wartime stresses—it almost has reached the vanishing point.

So far this year there has been only one lynching. Last year there were three. In 1942 there were five; in 1941, four; in 1940, five.

Compare any of thees years with 1933, when there were 24; or 1935 when there were 19. Or go farther back still and you will find lynchings decreased for the Nation as a whole from 1080 in the decade 1882-1901 to 29[illegible] in the decades 1[illegible]-1939.

The number of lynchings has reached this low point at a time of large scale urban migration, housing problems and labor tensions—factors which ordinarily would tend to increase racial conflict.

How is this seeming paradox explained? 10-15-44

All Enter Picture

A maturing of native culture? A sense of national unity in wartime? The fact that many men are in the armed services or gainfully employed? The organized campaign against lynching that has been waged by some organizations in the South in recent years? The threat of an antilynching law?

All these factors probably enter the picture, says Guy B. Johnson of Atlanta, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, which keeps a record of the number of lynchings each year.

The council is an organization of Southern educators, editors, ministers and others and works in race relations as one phase of a broad program of social progress in the South.

The downward drift of the lynching curve for the last 50 years, Johnson says, has been "perhaps inevitable . . . quite aside from the organized efforts to combat lynching." 10-15-44

It is a trend, he adds, comparable to the trend toward greater rights for women, labor, etc., and is indicative of a maturing of American culture.

Threat More Potent

BARBARISM HERE

The horrible lynching and mutilation of an aged Christian minister is revealed in an affidavit by the son of the victim. None of the justifications commonly set forth in behalf of lynchers is present in this instance. The murdered man owned a farm which was coveted by whites because of a reported discovery of oil on the premises. In an effort to protect his rights the owner had sought the advice of a lawyer. This fact seems to have aroused the covetous whites to a high pitch of anger. To get possession of the rich farm, they killed the old man and ran his son off the place. N.Y. P.M.

7178

knocks in the global war, every means should be taken to protect and advance civilizing processes here at home. Germans have tortured and massacred millions of Jewsh civilians. We have grown so callous that Germany is no longer openly denounced as barbarous. There may be little danger that our Northern and Western communities will underrate sacredness of human life, though it is made humiliatingly clear to all the world that murder is not considered a crime in the South. Few Southern leaders will be outspoken in condemnation of the acts of the Mississippi mob. But had the outrage occurred in Japan, newspaper headlines would scream about the savagry of the little brown Nipponese! As it is, since the fiendish wickedness took place in the United States which we like to call civilized, the Japs no doubt are already using it as valutble material for broadcasts to South America and through the Orient. Certainly, the nation owes it to itself to stop mob murders and all other forms of race hatred if there is an honest intent to seek amicable relations with South Americans. Both Republicans and Democrats should muster up courage and pass a Federal anti-lynching bill. It is true lynchings have declined, but the lynching impulse will linger.

—The Guardian

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PUBLIC CONDUCT' CAMPAIGNS

In recent years "public conduct" campaigns have plagued practically every Negro community above and below the Mason-Dixon line. Right now, conducted by the National Urban League, one of these drives have gone into high gear in Chicago.

The purpose of "public conduct" campaigns is to improve race relations by turning the bumptious belligerent, vulgar and rapscallion type of Negro into a lady or gentleman. By preaching, pleading and shaming, they hope to sting the harmful fellows "back into line."

The intentions of this campaign are good, bt on the whole superficial and misdirected.

These drives ignore the very roots of bad "public conduct" among the Negro people or any other people. Most of the people the campaign is directed at have been so long slum-shocked, jim-crowed, and discriminated against that they hardly recognize their conduct as anything except normal. The conditioning factors of their lives is not likely to produce polite tea-drinkers with Oxford accents. Unless the very roots of race discrimination are attacked, sniping at a few bad limbs is worse than useless.

If any "public conduct" campaign is intended to improve race relations, it should be directed among white people as well as among Negroes. Race relations is a two-sided affair. There are whites who are belligerent, over-assertive and obnoxious too. There are whites who need to be told to treat their fellow Americans with decency, respect and courtesy. They need to know that jim crow and race discrimination is "bad public conduct."

Unfortunately, these public conduct campaigns have the wholehearted support not of the friends of the Negro people, but of their bitterest enemies: the Rankins, the Bilbos and the Peglars. Senator Bilbo would approve because these campaigns ignore the basic issues of our fight for freedom and equality. He would approve because these campaigns say what he has been trying to tell the world for years: "See, Negroes are an inferior, ill-bred, no-account lot. Their own people think so—what did I tell you."

What the sponsors need is a positive approach to the problem of race relations. What they want is a plan of action. What they are looking for is a purpose, a way to tell the world of their feelings and frustrations. A way to channel their energies, an outlet for their dwarfed dreams and blasted hopes.

—The Chicago Defender

COOPER INVESTIGATES MOB KILLING OF NEGRO

Governor Confers With Officials In Pikeville Slayings

From The Commercial Appeal Nashville Bureau

NASHVILLE, Dec. 2—Governor Cooper returned to his office Saturday morning and immediately conferred with law enforcement officers on progress of the investigation of the mob slaying of a negro trusty at the State Reformatory for Negroes, near Pikeville, who had slain the daughter and fatally beaten the wife of the institution's superintendent, H. E. Scott.

The Governor said he had not had time to read a report made by State Safety Director Lynn Bomar, who headed the state investigation into the murder of the two women and the subsequent death of the negro trusty, James Thomas Scales, but expected to go into the report soon.

Bomar presented his report shortly after the Governor returned from a week's absence spent at the Governor's Conference in Biloxi, Miss., and in Washington, where he presided over a meeting of the National Victory Garden Committee.

Others who conferred with the Governor included E. C. (Ted) Chattin, attorney general for the district including Pikeville, and his assistant, Harry Templeton, both of Winchester.

"No crime is too great to be tried in the courts of Tennessee," the Governor said, "and a thorough investigation of this case will be made."

He said he had not been informed whether any of the members of the mob had been identified. Bomar declined to reveal progress of his investigation but said patrolmen still were being retained on guard at the institution as a precautionary measure.

Nashville Ministers Alliance Raises More Than $800.00 at Mass Meeting Held Monday Night

More than $800.00 was raised at a largely attended mass meeting held in Spruce Street Baptist church Monday night of this week, and is to be spent to procure the arrest and conviction of the members of the mob which lynched James T. Scales, the 17-year old inmate of the State Training and Agriculture School at Pikeville on Thursday of last week.

The meeting was sponsored by the interdenominational Ministers Alliance, composed of colored pastors of Nashville, whose president is the Rev. S. S. Morris, Jr. Speakers at the meeting included the Rev. W. J. Faulkner, former president of the Alliance, the Rev. Jesse Lee McNeil, pastor of Spruce Street church; Attorney Z. Alexander Looby and Rev. J. T. Patton. Praise was given Gov. Cooper for promptly sending officers to Pikeville to investigate both the murder and the lynching.

Four well known Nashvillians were named trustees of the fund and announcement was made that the money was to be deposited in the Citizens Savings Bank and Trust Company and would be used exclusively for the purpose for which it was raised, that is to aid in the arrest and conviction of the members of the Pikeville mob. The four trustees are Mr. A. G. Price, cashier of the Citizens Bank; Rev. V. J. Faulkner, minister at Fisk University; Mr. E. T. Brown, Asst. Secretary of the Sunday School Publishing Board and Rev. J. T. Patton, undertaker.

The hope of Rev. Patton, who organized the movement to raise the fund to supplement the reward offered by the state, is to get individuals and organizations to make the total $2,000.

Mr. Preston Scales, well known undertaker of Murfreesboro and grandfather of the lynched boy, sent word to the meeting that he was ready to supplement the reward by as much as $500.

It was reported Tuesday that the International Labor Defense of New York had appropriated $500 to the fund and had wired the offer to Gov. Cooper. The telegram was sent by Congressman Vito Marcantonio, president of the organization, and well known as the author of the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill which was defeated in the present session of Congress.

It was learned that organizations in Chattanooga and other cities of the state would also supplement the fund being raised. Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People here and in other parts of the state, stand ready, it was announced, to aid in the prosecution of the mob members when they are apprehended.

Funeral services for young Scales were held in Murfreesboro on Sunday and action was taken by the NAACP of that city to help in the protection of the other boys of the Pikeville reformatory. Dr. J. R. Patterson of Murfreesboro, well known dentist there, stated that a letter had been written by the NAACP of Murfreesboro, requesting the governor to protect the youths from possible are bitter over the murder of the violence by citizens of Pikeville who two white women.

Reformatory Trusty Is Lynched By Mob Of Angered Whites

PIKEVILLE, Tenn.—(SNS)—The chief of police of this city said Friday that a trusty at the Tenn. State Training and Agricultural School (reformatory) for Negro boys near here was lynched by a crowd which took him away from the jail after the daughter of the superintendent of the school had been killed and his wife severely injured.

The trusty, James T. Scales, 17, who had been sent up from Nashville on a robbery charge, was 'shot to death,' the police chief said, after a small crowd obtained custody of him from a woman employe at the jail while Sheriff Henry Godfort was absent.

The Southern victim had been taken to the jail after the body of Mrs. Irwin McKinney and the unconscious form of her mother, Mrs. R. K. Scott, had been found at their residence. Superintendent Scott was in Nashville at the time, it was related.

The police chief said he had been informed that before he was shot Scales had admitted attacking the woman with a knife and a hammer.

There were no other details to the killing, as to the reason for the alleged attack on the woman.

legedly confessed his guilt. No one contended he was armed or resisted capture.

The lynching of the unarmed and non-resisting prisoner was listed on official records as "death at the hands of a posse."

Offer $1500 Reward For Tenn. Lynchers

MURFREESBORO, Tenn.—A total of $1500 reward has been offered for the capture of the members of the mob which lynched 17-year-old James Scales at Pikesville last Thursday. Matching Tennessee's Governor Prentice Cooper's $500 reward, this week were the Ministers' Alliance in Nashville and the International Labor Defense in New York.

Meanwhile, funeral services for the boy who reportedly murdered the wife and daughter of the superintendent of the State reform school, were held here Sunday.

Ga. Mob Lynches

37a-1944

3-1-56

GOV. COOPER HAS SECRET REPORT ON LYNCHING OF JAMES T. SCALES

Nashville Globe - Tenn.

12-8-44

Officials Believed Studying Facts Uncovered by State Highway Patrol, with Intention of Continuing Investigation

The brutal murder of the wife and daughter of Superintendent H. E. Scott of the State Training and Agricultural School for Negro boys, at Pikeville, and the subsequent lynching on the school grounds of James T. Scales, 17-year old Nashville boy, was a subject of considerable interest this week as rumors of what has been disclosed by Gov. Cooper's investigation of the tragedies and other developments were being discussed.

A summary of what have been matters of public discussion are as follows:

1. Gov. Prentice Cooper acknowledged that Chief Lynn Bomar of the highway patrol and J. J. Dolan, the attorney for that department, had made a report to the Governor and it was of such a nature he could not make it public; also it was one which gave facts that prompt further investigation of the Pikeville cases.

2. Gov. Cooper has held a conference with District Attorney-General Ted Chatting and Assistant Attorney-General Harry Temple of the Circuit in which the crimes were committed.

3. Daily newspapers have toned down their references to James T. Scales as the murderer of the two women, and have begun to qualify their references with the term "accused." Even the newspapers appear to be suspicious of having been misled into making the positive statement that James T. Scales was the actual killer of the two women.

4. Much suspicion is attached to the fact that no effort, apparently, was made to get the finger prints on the knife, hammer and other instruments of death which Scales was charged with using in committing the murders.

5. Citizens here are asking what about the guards of the reform school, and what were they doing when the mob shot Scales to death and then boldly carried his body into the school building and compelled the other boys to look at it and "learn a lesson."

6. Joe Hatcher, the usually reliable commentator on public affairs stated in his last Sunday's column that it was unlikely that anything whatever would result from Governor Cooper's investigation of the crimes, and that "unofficially it is said that there could be no warrant secured in the county, probably no grand jury to indict, and no jury that would convict were the members of the so-called 'mob' revealed." Mr. Hatcher stated that it was rumored Governor Cooper had been warned not to make a personal visit to the Pikeville School. The Governor, however, didn't "scare;" he went to the school last week.

7. The local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Baptist Ministers' Conference, the latter the largest organized group of ministers in the city, took steps at the last meetings to join others in offering a sizeable reward for apprehension of the men who lynched the Scales boy.

8. Rumors are circulating to the effect that the International Labor Defense which exposed the fraud in the charge of rape against the "Scottsboro Boys" and saved them from the electric chair may make an independent probe of the lynching and the two murders.

9. The drive to remove the reformitory away from the "God forsaken country" where it is located and "humanize" the school, is getting increased support, although Gov. Cooper is taking steps to replace the horrible quarters where the boys are now housed with modern buildings. The contention is still made that the school should be run by a Negro personnel, but the kind of colored help that should run it cannot be secured while the school is located in the woods out from Pikeville, it is generally admitted.

Many Peculiar Angles Seen in Lynching of James T. Scales at Pikeville Reform School

Tenn.
NASHVILLE Globe

Scales was quoted as saying that he made the attack after he had asked Mrs. Scott for the keys to her automobile and she refused them." 12-1-44

The above statement, the author of which has not been disclosed, is all that the public knows of the motive that James T. Scales had for allegedly brutally murdering two white women at the state Training and Agricultural School for Colored Boys located at Pikeville, Tenn., and for which Scales was brutally lynched on the grounds of the school in mid-day of Thursday, November 23.

Up to the time of going to press this week, all the public knew about the whole affair "was what it read in the newspapers," which was a bizarre recital of the lynching but with ever so many strange sentences in the newspaper stories that have caused the people to be skeptical of statements about the sordid affair. There was an eager interest in the report that is to be made of the investigation into it by highway patrolmen who were dispatched to the scene immediately after the report of the lynching was made. This action was taken by Gov. Prentice Cooper, who also offered the legal reward of $500 for the apprehension of the members of the mob.

James T. Scales, age 17 was well known in Nashville where his parents live. He had gone to the Nashville public schools. However more than a year ago he enlisted in the Navy, by saying he was older than he actually was. He went overseas, saw combat service, was wounded and later discharged when his real age was disclosed by his birth certificate.

The past October he was charged with purse snatching and was convicted of the offense and sent to the reform school at Pikeville on account of his age. He seems to have been made a trusty soon after going to the School and was reported as being employed to look after the furnace at the home of Supt. H. E. Scott of the reform school. 12-1-44

The newspaper stories concerning his action before he was lynched state that he used an axe, butcher knife and hammer to beat to death young Mrs. Gwendolyn McKinnie, daughter of the superintendent, and the wife of a soldier now overseas, and that he also attacked Mrs. Scott, the superintendent's wife, with these instruments of death. Mrs. Scott died in a hospital at Chattanooga Thursday night.

The newspaper stories tell of a boy going to the home of the superintendent Thursday morning to deliver a grocery order and could not arouse anybody. It is stated that later the assistant superintendent of the school and a grocery keeper went to the Scott home, broke in and found the young woman dead and her mother mortally wounded.

Still later, Scales is reported to have been seen in the vicinity of Pikeville and "recognized by a former employe of the institution, who was unaware of the slaying", and who returned Scales to the school grounds.

But immediately following the statement that Scales was "returned to the grounds" is the statement that he was secured from the county jail. The newspaper story said that unnamed persons went to the jail, represented to the woman in charge that Scales was wanted at the school and sought the keys of his cell, but, the newspaper story says that the woman in charge, a Mrs. Douglas, admitted she opened the cell door and let Scales be taken away. 12-1-44

On the school grounds, it is said that the mob first undertook to hang Scales but the assistant superintendent "addressed" the members asking them to withhold their action", but the mob refused to listen and took Scales farther into the school grounds where they shot him several times, killing him instantly.

Later, says the newspaper story, the body of Scales was taken into a room at the school and the mob ordered all inmates there to look at it." 12-1-44

The report says that chief of Police W. M. Tollett stated that before Scales was shot to death he admitted attacking the two women with a hammer and a knife, saying he made the attack after he had asked Mrs. Scott for the keys to her automobile and she refused. The chief of police stated, however, that he "had been informed" this confession was made by Scales. The story did not give the name of the person who had claimed to have heard the Scales' confession.

The chief of police did not know the size of the mob but reported he estimated there were eight or ten in the crowd none of whom he knew, not having seen the mob in action.

Mr. Scott, the newspaper report stated, was in Nashivlle conferring with the State Commissioner of Institutions W. C. Baird when he was first informed of the Pikeville tragedy.

One part of the story dealing with the reported Scales' confession has Assistant Superintendent Neil saying that Scales stated he had no assistance in attacking the two women, and that Mrs. Ruth Douglas who was in charge of the jail, quotes Scales as having made the same statement at the jail. However another account of what happened immediately preceding the lynching, places Mr. Neil at the school from where he had telephoned the jail, ask-mob. The next statement a-ing that Scales be searchedbout Mr. Neil tells of 'hear-for a pistol, and was told by story indicates, Mr. Neil ap-a commotion on the school peared on the scene, made his talk to the mob, who disre-garded what he said, and shot been removed from the jail, ing a rope over a limb, and and that this answer was Mr. Scales was in the center of the mob." Thereupon, the any of the members of the mob, according to the newspaper account, "Because I didn't have time". 12-1-44

7181

dealing with what Mr. Neil is alleged to have said he heard Scales confess, is when did he hear the confession? Since he appears not to have talked with the boy, if the newspaper report telling of him calling up the jail and then making only a few remarks to the crowd after they had brought the boy to the school grounds, is true.

The newspaper-reading public in Nashville was not wholly satisfied with the accounts of the murder and the lynching, it appeared this week. There appeared to be significance to the report from the Juvenile Court, stating that officials there were "surprised" to hear that Scales had committed so atrocious a murder. There was significance, commentators stated, in the prompt action of Gov. Cooper ordering Lynn Bomar, chief of the highway patrol to go to Pikeville and investigate both the murder and the lynching. 12-1-44

Chief Bomar went immediately, and was reported returning to the scene of the atrocities this week. His report to the governor had not been made public early this week. There is significance, many say, in the way local papers have dropped the story since Mr. Lynn Bomar went on the scene.

The investigation is big news, in that it involves finding the members of the mob and seeking substantiation of the charge that young Scales actually committed the murders, and without assistance, as has been stated in the confession he is alleged to have made. 12-1-44

Some say that if the boy had made such a frank confession, and was guilty of committing so brutal a murder as the facts show was committed, that even members of the Pikeville mob could have been reasoned with to allow the law to take its course, with the certainty that Scales would get punishment in full extent of the law.

But in the meantime, no full judgment can be rendered on the horrible case until the full investigation, such as Gov. Cooper has ordered and is having made, has been completed.

Slayer Jailer Is Lynched

Savannah Tribune

Savannah, Ga.

3-7-56

SHOT TO DEATH NEAR ROCK HILL

11-16-44

LAGRANGE, GA. —(ANP)— Generally regarded here by Negroes as another of the many illegal lynchings reported to by Dixie mobs in recent years was the fatal shooting near Rock Mills, Ala., Tuesday of Robert Lee, wanted for the bludgeoning death of a white jailer, Arvil Harris.

Harris died in a hospital Sunday from blows about the head allegedly administered by Lee who is from Hogansville, Ga. Lee is said to have taken the keys to the jail and escaped. He was arrested on a burglary charge. 11-19-44

A few minutes after news of Harris' death spread throughout the community, a large mob of angry whites gathered and led by Troupe County Sheriff E. V. Hilyer began a search for Lee.

Lee was discovered lurking in some woods near Rock Mill, and before he was summarily shot and killed, allegedly confessed his guilt. No one contended that Lee was armed or had resisted capture

1944

SOUTHERN ASSN. SEEKS TO MOVE SCHOOL FROM LYNCH TOWN; ASK FOR NEGRO PERSONEL

Jackson, Tenn.—The Southern Association met in general Annual Session at Long's Chapel A. M. E. Church near here on Dec. 1, 1944. Rev. G. M. Banks presided. The reports were good. Rev. G. S. Rivers, Farm Security Supervisor, spoke on the Relation of the Farm Security to the small farmers. Dr. I. L. Hildreth spoke on new diseases brought on by the war and periodical examinations. Attorney P. L. Harden spoke on the tragedy that happened at the Herbert Domain Reformatory for Colored Boys at Pikeville, Tennessee, a few days ago. Mr. Melvoid Estes spoke on the value of Credit Unions.

The organization appointed the General Counsel to look into the matter of the Herbert Domain affair. The organization has sent a committee to the Legislature for several sessions to remove this institution from out of the mountains of East Tennessee to a site nearer the center of the Negro population, but the Legislature has turned it down each time.

The killing of this 16 year old boy should be thoroughly investigated. This school is nothing more than a penal institution and the worse conditions exist there, and no colored person is employed there and no colored families live in the community.

The organization passed resolutions in regard to the same and sent them to the Governor, Superintendent of this school, the Department of Justice, and that the organization assist the State in raising the reward for the apprehension of the guilty parties to both of these crimes, and to send a committee to the Legislature to re-establish this school in a site nearer the center of the Negro population and ask for a Negro personnel.

A financial committee was appointed to raise funds in this matter. They are asking that all organizations and persons believing in law and order and the Courts being preserved and prisoners furnished protection will please send donations to Mr. J. H. Moten, Secretary Treasurer, 403 S. Church St., Jackson, Tennessee, and report on or before Dec. 22nd.

The Legislative Committee will memorialize the Legislature which meets Jan. 1st, to re-establish this school nearer the center of the Negro population, and give it a Negro personnel and combine the Negro part of the Tennessee Industrial School for delinquent youths with it and name the School W. J. Hale and Isaac Lane State Industrial and Agricultural School for Colored Boys.

The following officers were elected:

Rev. Geo. M. Banks, President.
Mr. D. Board, 1st Vice President.
Rev. T. H. McDonald, 2nd Vice President.
Mr. F. L. Smith, 3rd Vice President.
Mr. J. H. Moten, Secretary-Treasurer.
Mrs. Troy Clay, Assistant Secretary.
Rev. G. S. Rivers, Chaplain.
Atty. P. L. Harden, General Counsel.
Mr. Mack Bailey, Director of Campaign.
Miss Annie Mae Smith, Clerk.
Governing Board Members:
Mr. D. Board, Obion County Union City.
Mr. Melvoid Estes, Madison County.
Others to be added.

7184

MINISTER LYNCHED

LAST week's paper revealed for the first time a particularly vicious lynching of a 66-year-old minister last March in Amite County, Miss., because he had hired a lawyer to safeguard his title to a 220-acre debt-free farm. All lynchings are vicious, but the circumstances surrounding this particular lynching are such that it must be marked down as one of the most heinous crimes that have seen the spotlight of publicity. 9-2-44

The victim, Rev. Isaac Simmons was going peacefully about his business, running his farm, and ministering to the needs of his congregation. There had never been an instance of him having any trouble with anyone. But rumor soon spread throughout the county that there might be oil on the land Rev. Simmons owned. Greedy and envious whites then resorted to all sorts of subterfuges in an attempt to gain possession of his land. It was then that they discovered that Rev. Simmons was smart enough to have taken extra precautions to safeguard his interests; he had retained legal services and was prepared for any eventuality.

The dramatic story of the lynching was sent to the NAACP by Elridge Simmons, son of the lynched minister, who was driven away from the county after his father was killed. The NAACP has asked Governor Thomas L. Bailey, of Mississippi, to investigate the crime and has also asked United States Attorney General Francis Biddle to examine the case because of the possibility that Federal conspiracy statutes have been violated.

Describing the lynching, Elridge Simmons said that around noon on March 26, 1944, a group of white men whom he named came to his house which was located about a mile from his father's house and asked if he knew how the property line ran. When he said he did, the men ordered him to show them. He got into a car with the men and they drove about a quarter of a mile from the minister's house. Both he and his father were called "smart niggers" for going to see a lawyer. The car stopped and three of the men got out and walked to Rev. Simmons' house. A short time later the son said he saw his father being walked to the car with a man on either side and another in the back. The man in the back, he said, kicked and punched at his father. 9-2-44

When the trio reached the car with the minister, they all got in and the car drove off. A short distance later, the car stopped and some of the men got out and told the minister to follow. The minister got out of the car and started to run. One of the men leveled a shotgun and fired twice at the minister. Several of the men followed him and the son who was obliged to remain in the car heard shooting in the distance.

Finally, all of the men returned to the car and told the minister's son that they were going to let him go but that he had better not know anything about what had just taken place. They gave him ten days to get off the land and to clear off all his tenants. When he was finally put out of the car the minister's son said he was bloody, ragged and half-blind from the brutal beatings he had received.

A searching party was organized and went to look for the minister. His body was found in the thickets. He had been shot three times in the back and his arm was broken. Nearly all of his teeth had been knocked out and his tongue was cut out. 9-2-44

The constable and high sheriff were called and after an inquest they gave the verdict that the minister had met his death at the hands of unknown parties, despite the fact that his assailants were known by name and their identities disclosed by his son.

The brutal lynching, and the gross callousness of the local officials, are a travesty on justice. The NAACP should push the case to the utmost and insist on action by Mississippi authorities and if thwarted they should then insist on action by the Federal government.

Seventeen-Year-Old Lad Taken from Jail; Lynched Governor Offers Reward

11-30-44

Pikeville, Tenn.—A Negro trusty 17, accused of killing the daughte of the superintendent of the Tennessee training and agricultura school (reformatory) and fatally beating her mother Thursday wa removed from the county jail her and shot to death.

The elder woman, taken to a Chatanooga, Tenn., hospital, died Thursday night without regaining consciousness.

State Highway Patrol Chief Lynn Bomar, who arrived on orders from Gov. Prentice Cooper, said, "there will be a full investigation fo both the murders and the lynching."

The governor announced he would offer a $500 reward for arrest and

Mrs. Ruth Douglas, white, cook who was in charge at the jail, said that she released Scales to a small group of men who had been over a tree limb. 11-30-44

Neil told them they were making a mistake and that "I don't want anything like that done here."

The rope was tossed aside, he said, but then there were gun shots. He

Scales to the jail he heard a commo-

tion. When he went out of his home he found the Negro surrounded by a group of men who had thrown a rope

Neil, assistant superintendent, in charge at the school while was rounddent, was at the school while

Mrs. H. E. Scott was on a visit to Nashville, Tenn. group of men who said the had brought

Mrs. Gwen. W. E. Scales, the trusty, who had a long record in Nashville juvenile court, was brought to the jail several hours after Mrs. Scott, badly injured in their home on said that some time after sending

Scales to the jail he heard a commo-

dropped to the ground to avoid being hit.

Scales was killed. Before leaving, the men who had shot him urged Negro students to look at the body "as an example."

11-30-44

Two Styles of Lynching

PEOPLE'S VOICE - N.Y., N.Y.

IN TENNESSEE last week a mob took a 17-year-old Negro reform school youth out of jail, shot him, and then forced the other Negro youths at the institution to parade before his dead body. This was rural lynching—old style.

In Philadelphia several days earlier a police officer stepped into an ordinary street brawl, knocked a Negro truck-driver to the ground, and as he slowly tried to get up, shot him point-blank, and left him there to die. This was urban lynching—new style.

12-2-44

The newspapers in Tennessee scream that the Negro lad committed a horrible murder—although there is only the questionable suspicion that he is guilty, and the mob gave no opportunity for a trial. The newspapers in Philadelphia shout that the Negro man was a dangerous "bandit"—although he has not even been accused of anything worse than getting into a street fight.

The courts in Tennessee will probably try to whitewash the mob-lynchers—if they are ever arrested. The courts in Philadelphia—with the help of a Negro magistrate!—have already done a neat whitewash job on the policeman-lyncher.

These are no isolated incidents. The Tennessee lynching is of a piece with the increasing acts of violence and oppression by a Bourbon South trying desperately to fight off the growing power of democracy. The Philadelphia lynching is right in line with the increasing police brutality in that and other large industrial cities—likewise reflecting reaction against the growing participation and influence of Negroes in the civic and political life of the community.

Both of these lynchings—rural-old and urban-new — are symptoms of still more serious trouble to come. Let there be no "quieting down" on either of these cases. Unless an aroused public fights both of them through to a just conclusion, we are letting ourselves in for just that much more trouble ahead.

37a-1944

3-7-56 ✓

Alabama

7185

Private Lynched in Alabama Town

Afro American (37a)

Baltimore, Md. 3-18-44

Pvt. Raymond McMurray Was in Custody of Civilian Police

CAMP SIEBERT, Ala.—Private Raymond McMurray was lynched at Teel, Ala., Saturday at 4:45 p.m.

He was in the custody of civilian police after being arrested in Chattanooga, Tenn., on an alleged charge of rape.

The usual stories followed:

1. That McMurray was surprised by a white man with his wife and the latter yelled rape.

2. That an alderly woman identified McMurray as her assailant.

3-18-44

3. That McMurray was AWOL when arrested and, while being transported from one prison to another, attempted to escape and was killed.

37a-1944

Louisiana

7/77

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.
8-26-44

Miss. Whites Wanted Farm

Angered Because He Consulted Lawyer

OIL REPORTED
Son, Forced To Leave Town, Gives Account

NEW ORLEANS, La.--A lynch-killing of a 66-year-old minister last March 26 in Amite County, Miss., because he hired a lawyer to safeguard his title to a 220-acre debt-free farm, has just been revealed in an affidavit sworn to by Eldridge Simmons, son of the murdered man.

The victim, the Rev. Issac Simmons, had no trouble until it was suspected that there was oil on his land. Whites then tried to gain possession of his property.

When they found he had consulted a lawyer they got together a small mob and killed him in the presence of his son, who was later driven from the county.

Investigations Urged

Eldridge Simmons sent his affidavit to the NAACP in New York, which in turn has asked Governor Thomas L. Bailey of Mississippi to investigate and requested Attorney General Francis Biddle to determine whether Federal conspiracy Statutes have been violated.

The dramatic story of the lynching is told in the following paragraphs from the affidavit:

"Between 11 a.m. and 12 o'clock noon, March 26, 1944--which was a Sunday--a group of white men, including Noble Rider, two of his brothers Harper Dawson, Rabbit Spillman, and a man I did not know, came to my house, which is located about a mile from my father's house, both being on property owned by us.

Asked About Property Line

"The men asked me if I knew how the propety line ran. I told them I thought I did. They told me to come and show them.

"I went down the road with them for some distance then we came to a car. The car was a late model studebaker, I believe, with the gear shift on the steering wheel. It was grayish in color.

"I got in the back seat of the car and they drove about a quarter of a mile from my father's house. The man I didn't know did the driving. They kept telling me that my father and I were 'smart n——rs' for going to see a lawyer. 8-26-44

"Three of them remained in the car with me; three walked up to my father's house.

Kicked Father Along

"Some time later, I saw the three men returning with my father. They were Noble Rider, Harper Dawson, and another man (I can't remember whether it was one of the Rider brothers or Spillman).

"Noble Rider and the other man were walking on either side of my 66-year-old father, Isaac Simmons, while Dawson walked behind him, kicking and punching him.

"When they reached the car, they made my father get in the front seat. They all got in the car.

"My father begged them and prayed with them not to hurt him or me as they drove down the road. Two of them kept beating me as I sat in the back seat.

Shotgun Fired

"Some distance down the road they stopped the car near a side road where there were lots of thickets. 'Let's take them down here,' one of the white men said.

"They told my father to get out the car. He got out and started to run from the road. One of the men leveled the shotgun and fired twice at my father. 8-26-44

"One reloaded the gun, the other two ran in the direction my father had taken. The man who reloaded the gun ran off in that direction also, then I heard another shot. I begged the men in the car to spare my life.

Decide to Spare Son

"A while later, the other three returned. They all talked in low tones behind the car.

"Finally, they came around and told me: 'Alright, "n——r," we're going to let you go.'

"One of them told me to get out of the car; another said: 'I'll tell him when to get out.'

"Noble Rider asked me: 'You don't want to get beat up any more, do you?'

"I answered, 'I sure don't.'

"He said:: "If this comes up again, you had better not know anything about it.'

Ordered Off Farm

"They told me that they gave me ten days to get off the place and clear off my tenants. I had two tenants, Willie Huff, and A. D. Robinson, who worked for me. And also an old man, S. B. Motor who had no other place to stay.

"When they put me out of the car, I was bloody, ragged and half blind. I went to my sister's house and told what had happened.

"The news spread. Church meeting broke up and we all went down to where my father lay in the thickets. That was about 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Tongue Cut Out

"When we got to the thickets, we saw my father dead, lying half on his side. He had been shot three times in the back and some one said his arm was broken. Nearly all of his teeth had been knocked out, and his tongue was cut out. 8-26-44

"Some one went and got Constable George Hazelwood. The constable went and got the high sheriff.

Case Whitewashed

"They held an inquest and gave the verdict that my father had met his death at the hands of unknown parties."

In the letter to both the Governor and the U.S. Attorney General, the NAACP pointed out "this case clearly represents a conspiracy on the part of certain individuals (named in the affidavit) to injure, threaten, and intimidate these citizens in the free exercise or enjoyment of rights secured to them by the United States Constitution."

The younger Mr. Simmons was held in the Magnolia, Miss., jail for "safe-keeping" from the day following his father's funeral until April 8, when he was released with a letter of identification from Sheriff Wiley Smith of Liberty.

He had already moved his belongings from his home and sent his wife elsewhere to live.

3-7-56

7186

Mississippi Off Again

with - Memphis, Tenn.

The gruesome account of the slaying of Isaac Simmons, 66-year-old farmer and minister last March by a band of white outlaws who sought, and for the moment succeeded, in appropriating unto themselves, 220 acres of rich farm land belonging to the aged minister, is enough to force men and women with normal human instincts to recoil in deep disgust at the extreme depravity of mind of humanity in certain areas of this nation.

8-22-44

The sordid accounts of the slaying is set forth in an affidavit signed by the slain man's 48-year-old son, Eldridge Simmons, which now has been placed into the hands of the U. S. Attorney General, Francis E. Biddle, for action.

It is alleged that the band of white man sought to take possession of the valuable farm property, which they also suspected of containing rich oil reserves, the property was debt-free and had been made over to the aged minister-farmer upon the death of his father, back in 1929. The story from this point onward is typical of those prevalent in most rural southern communities, where white planters still think of the Negro as personal property.

Mississippi is a state of great contrasts. It contributed Rankin to the United States Congress. It has given Bilbo to the Senate. It would, if it could, lead the much advertised revolt against Roosevelt and the New Deal because of its supposed liberality toward Negroes. The state has served notice that Supreme Court or no, Negroes will not be permitted a participate in their primaries. It did not welcome or want the federal government to reach its arm of civil liberty into the three lynchings there, less than two years ago.

8-22-44

We hope the Justice Department will move into the state and into this fearful crime with a fine-tooth comb and bring these men to justice for their depravity. In simple logic and realism, men of such mental equipment as committed this crime do not understand what is meant by "a trial by jury" or due process of law. These are alien terms. And the Atlantic Charter or Four Freedoms have not yet reached the outer crust of their concept of life. There is but one way to handle them—place them at the mercy of the strong hand of the law.

BRUTAL SLAYING REVEALED IN SON'S AFFIDAVIT

Defender—Chicago, Ill.

Pastor-Farmer Warned To Get Off Valuable Oil Land

8-26-44

JACKSON, Miss.—(ANP)—Rev. Isaac Simmons, 65-year-old farmer-minister of Liberty, Amite county, Miss., was lynched and his tongue cut out by a group of white men who sought to take possession of his 220-acre farm, which is believed to have rich oil deposits, it was disclosed here this week.

The brutal slaying of the aged man, which took place on March 26, was revealed in an affidavit signed by his 48-year-old son, Eldridge Simmons, in a Louisiana city last week, and followed efforts of the father and son to protect their interests by engaging lawyers in Forest and Jackson, Miss.

The son, who was severely beaten and threatened with death, made his way to his present dwelling following his release from the Amite County jail, where he had been held for safekeeping after the slaying of his father.

Inherit Land

In his signed affidavit, the son of the lynched man stated that the 220-acre debt-free farm came to his father and his seven children upon the death of his grandfather, Anthony Simmons, who died in 1929. So far as could be learned here, no arrests have been made in connection with the slaying, other than the arrest of the son who was held in Liberty jail for several days for safekeeping.

8-26-44

Simmons revealed in his affidavit that his family, including his father, seven children and grandchildren, farmed the land, lived there without any trouble until two or three years ago when a white man began trying to take possession of the Simmons property.

8-26-44

Several months prior to the brutal slaying, Rev. Simmons went to Jackson and hired a lawyer to straighten out matters so that no one could take it from the legal heirs and taxes were paid on the property as late as February 1, 1944, it was stated. It had been learned that there was a possibility of an oil vein running through the property and Rev. Simmons had indicated a desire to keep it for the family.

Attacked By Whites

During February, Rev. Simmons cut some timber off the land, his son said in the affidavit. Two white men, one of them the man who had been trying to take the property, left word for him not to cut any more timber off the land. Rev. Simmons wrote his lawyer in Forest about the matter and was told not to cut any more timber until he could straighten matters out. The lawyer's advice was obeyed.

Then late the morning of March 28 a group of six white men went to Eldridge Simmons' house which was located about a mile from his father's house and asked if he knew how the property line ran. After telling them he thought he did, Eldridge was invited to come and show them. They went down the road for some distance coming to a car.

The group then began cursing and abusing Eldridge, calling him a "smart nigger" and telling him that they were going to kill him, his affidavit continues. Eldridge begged for his life as a double-barrelled shotgun was leveled at him and he was ordered to get into the car. The group drove about a quarter of a mile from Rev. Simmons' house, the white men repeatedly telling Eldridge that he and his father were "smart niggers" for going to see a lawyer.

8-26-44

Three of them walked up to Rev. Simmons' house, while the other three kept Eldridge on the back seat of the car. Some time later the men returned with the elder Simmons, two of them walking beside him and the other behind, kicking and punching him.

Shoot Father

"When they reached the car they made my father get in the front seat," the affidavit continues. "They all got in the car. My father begged them and prayed with them not to hurt him or me as they drove down the road they stopped the car near a side road, where there were lot of thickets. 'Let's take them here' one of the men said. They told my father to get out of the car.

"He got out and started to run from the road. One of them leveled the shot gun and fired twice at my father. One reloaded the gun; the other two ran in the direction my father had taken. The man who loaded the gun ran in that direction also; then I heard another shot.

"A while later the three returned. They all talked in low tones behind the car. Finally they came around and told me, 'All right, nigger, we're going to let you go.'

The leader of the terrorist-murderers asked Eldridge, "You don't want to get beat up anymore, do you?" He was given the answer that "I sure don't." Eldridge was then warned, "If this comes up again, you had better not know anything about it." He was then told that he would be given 10 days to get off the place and clear off his tenants.

Find Body

Bloody, ragged and half-blind, Eldridge was put out of the car later, making his way to his sister's house where he told what had happened. The news spread. Church broke up and the kinsmen and neighbors went down to where Rev. Simmons lay in the thickets. When they got there, the aged man was dead, lying half on his side. He had been shot three times in the back and his arm was broken. Nearly all of his teeth had been broken and his tongue was cut out.

A constable and the county sheriff were secured. An inquest was held and a verdict returned that Rev. Simmons "met death at the hands of parties unknown." He was buried three days later. In the meantime, Eldridge moved his belongings from his home, sent his wife to live with his brother and got places for his tenants.

8-26-44

The day following the funeral a deputy sheriff picked Eldridge up and took him to Magnolia, Miss., placing him in jail, he said, for safekeeping. The deputy told Eldridge that the white men might kill him if he stayed around Amite county. The slain man's son remained in Magnolia jail until April 8 when Sheriff Wiley Smith, of Liberty, had him released and gave him a letter of identification.

The case of Eldridge Simmons has been forward to Atty. Thurgood Marshall, special counsel of the NAACP, requesting that it be filed with the U. S. Department of Justice.

BIDDLE PROBES MISS. LYNCHING

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — Investigation is being made of the reported lynching of a 66-year-old minister by several white men in Amite County, Miss., last March 26, a spokesman for the office of the attorney general said Friday.

The incident was reported to the civil liberties section by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States attorney's office in the New Orleans area toward the end of July, and the investigation was begun on Aug. 4, it was said.

MISSISSIPPI MOB SLAYS MAN OVER RICH FARM

Courier—Pittsburgh, Pa.

8-26-44

NAACP Asks State Governor and U. S. Justice Dept. to Act

NEW ORLEANS, La. — The lynch-slaying of a 66-year-old minister, Rev. Isaac Simmons, in Amite county, Miss., by a six-man mob last March 26, because he hired a lawyer to safeguard his title to a 220 acre debt-free farm has just been revealed in an affidavit sworn to by Eldridge Simmons, son of the murdered man. Gov. Thomas L. Bailey of Mississippi and U. S. Attorney General Francis Biddle have been asked to investigate by the NAACP New York office.

Although the constable of the county, George Harewood, and the high sheriff, according to Eldridge Simmons, found that the minister died at the hands of unknown parties, the minister's son explicitly names Noble Rider, two of Rider's brothers, Harper Dawson, Rabbit Spillman, and "a man I did not know," as comprising the lynch party. Eldridge gives complete details of the slaying which followed the brutal beating of both the minister and his son, the latter being held while the white men shot the minister three times in the back with a shot gun.

According to the slain man's son, the Rev. Mr. Simmons had hired lawyers in Jackson and Forrest, Miss., to safeguard the boundary of his farm, which a white man had disputed. The farm contains valuable tracts of timber and is believed to have rich oil deposits.

MINISTER SHOT THREE TIMES IN BACK

On March 6 of this year a group of six white men picked up the Rev. Mr. Williams and his son, Eldridge, drove them about a quarter of a mile from the Simmon's residence, cursed the men, beat them brutally, then, placing the aged minister on the road, shot him three times in the back with a shotgun.

8-26-44

The men then told Eldridge Simmons that he had 10 days in which to get off his farm and to clear his two tenants off the place. He ran to his sister's home and told what had happened. The constable and the high sheriff of the county held an inquest and gave the verdict that the Rev. Mr. Simmons had "met his death at the hands of unknown parties, although the son was able to name all the men in the death party.

SON OF SLAIN MAN JAILED

The day following the funeral of the slain man a deputy sheriff picked Eldridge up and took him to Magnolia, Miss., placing him in jail, he said, "for safe keeping."

Special Venire Called In Negro Slaying Case

LIBERTY, MISS., Oct. 31—(UP)—A special venire of sixty persons has been called for selection of a jury in the trial of Noble Ryder, one of six Amite County men charged with the murder of

Bureau of Investigation which gathered evidence in the case.

negro preacher last March. The trial of the first defendant was expected to begin today. Judge B. E. Bennett Monday overruled a motion by the defense to dismiss the charges because of alleged "outside influences," including the "federal

Says Simmons Case Was "Murder" And Not A "Lynching"

Informer — Houston, Tex.
10-21-44

WASHINGTON, —(ANP)—Victor Rotnem, chief civil liberties section of the attorney general's office, denied last week that he used the word "nigger" in a conversation with a PM reporter who came to discuss the killing of Isaac Simmons, an aged preacher, in Amity County, Miss.

The story further charged that the office had been derelict in its investigation in connection with the killing. The state grand jury was scheduled to convene on Monday, sometime afterwhich it was expected to take up the Isaac's matter.

Rotnem explained too that there is a distinction between a "lynching" and a "murder" which has a genuine effect upon the course taken. He said that early reference to the Isaac case made it a lynching when in face it was a murder. His section, he says, considers a case a "lynching" when local law enforcement officers fail to do their job or become implicated in the crime.

10-21-44

The Isaacs case was murder, committed by private individuals. The jurisdiction, he explained, is local. This, however, has not precluded the FBI from investigating the case, which it did. Rotnem invited this reporter to visit his office after the state grand jury has acted upon the case. The inference was that something can and will be done if indictments are not returned against the arrested man.

The case brought about an investigation by Federal agencies and Attorney General Biddle ordered that all reports be turned over to the Amite County Grand Jury, which returned true bills charging murder against the six defendants.

Simmons Case Declared Outside Jurisdiction of Justice Dept.

Tribune — Washington, D.C.
10-28-44

By HARRY McALPIN

The brutal, lynch-killing of Isaac Simmons, 66-year-old preacher in Amite County, Miss., last March, which did not come to light until last August, was declared to be outside the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice to prosecute after an investigation by the FBI, according to Attorney General Biddle last week.

Mr. Biddle referred to the killing as "a particularly revolting crime."

Four Named

Four white Mississipians have been named in the case, but the Department of Justice says "there is not sufficient evidence to permit it to enter the case."

The case is now in the hands of a grand jury in Amite County, which opened its term Monday a week ago. Mystery surrounds the failure of four Negro witnesses to appear to testify before the grand jury. One of the witnesses was a son of the slain minister who had filed an affidavit with the NAACP in August setting forth the lurid details of the slaying.

Sheriff Wiley Smith, of Amite County, is reported to have said he was not hopeful that the witnesses would be found in time to testify at this setting of the grand jury.

10-28-44

Revolting Crime

The FBI investigation was begun when the NAACP brought the case to Mr. Biddle's attention in August. The results are being turned over to the grand jury of Amite County.

Witnesses Fail To Appear For Lynching Case

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Mystery Shrouds Disappearance Of Slain Man's Son

10-22-44

LIBERTY, Miss. (SNS) — The actual ending of the case of four white men named as murderers of a 66-year-old Negro minister near here apparently will vary but slightly from the ending of PM's deliberately premature story on October 8, which anticipated a "white-wash of the four suspects by a white Amite county grand jury.

The case has not developed into a "white-wash." Instead it appears as if it will die from neglect. Four Negro witnesses expected to testify before the grand jury last Monday failed to appear.

NO ANSWER

Sheriff Wiley Smith said that the missing Negroes had been in the county up to a few days, but, for some reason he was at a lost to explain. He added they may have vanished to New Orleans, Memphis or someplace else in the state of Louisiana.

Eldridge Simmons, son of Isaac Simmons, the slain victim, was supposed to be in New Orleans, the sheriff stated. He explained he had wired New Orleans asking the police to locate Simmons and to tell him that he was wanted as a witness. The sheriff said further that by Tuesday night he had not heard if Simmons had been found.

The sheriff said that similar wires had been sent to Memphis for Mrs. Laura Houston and her husband, whose name the sheriff could not recall. No answer came from Memphis either. 10-22-44

The fourth witness, the sheriff stated, is Mrs. Emma Bates, daughter of the murder victim. She was supposed to have gone to Memphis, it was stated, but it was learned this week that he had left and gone to work someplace in Louisiana in a saw-mill.

That is where the case stands at the present time. The grand jury the sheriff pointed out, can't act if witnesses are not present in the city. The jury sits through Thursday of next week, the sheriff stated, and if witnesses do not appear by that time the only thing that can be done is to continue the case to the next sitting. He was not hopeful on the chances of any of the witnesses reaching here on time. 10-22-44

The four suspects in the murder are Harper Dawson, Noble Ryder and two of the latter's brothers.

According to an affidavit by Eldridge Simmons, who is small and crippled, these four and two other men appeared at his father's farm on last March 26, herder Eldridge and his father into a car, drove down a wooded road, beat Eldridge and also his father, the victim, and then shot the latter to death with a shotgun.

Isaac Simmons earlier in the year had employed a lawyer to clear up the title to his 225 acre farm. Noble Ryder earlier had bought part of the farm and was trying to sell its mineral rights. It was claimed by the grand jury that the four white men sought the farm place because of its great financial value.

TRIAL SET WEDNESDAY IN SLAYING OF NEGRO

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

Case Against Six At Liberty Delayed Two Days

10-28-44

LIBERTY, Miss., Oct. 27.—(AP)—The trial of six white men indicted for murder in connection with the slaying of a negro preacher was scheduled for Monday in Circuit Court here, but Amite County Dist. Atty. Joe E. Brown said the case would not be called until Wednesday.

The district attorney said the delay was necessary to allow state witnesses time to reach Liberty.

The men, Harper Dawson, Roger Dawson, Mann Dawson, Noble Ryder, Narvel Ryder and John Brown, all of Liberty, were charged with the slaying of Isaac Simmons last March 26, in a dispute over the ownership of some land.

10-28-44

7187

Minister Lynched Last March!

Union — Cincinnati, Ohio

TEETH KNOCKED OUT, TONGUE CUT OUT!

8-24-44

New Orleans, La.—A lynch killing of a 66-year-old minister, Rev. Isaac Simmons, last March 26 in Amite county, Miss., because he hired a lawyer to safeguard his title to a 220-acre debt-free farm, has just been revealed in an affidavit sworn to by Eldridge Simmons, son of the murdered man.

The dramatic story of the lynching is told in the following paragraphs from the affidavit:

"Between 11 a.m. and 12 o'clock noon, March 26, 1944—which was on a Sunday—a group of white men including Noble Rider, two of his brothers, Harper Dawson, Rabbit Spillman, and a man I did not know, came to my house which is located about a mile from my father's house, both being on property owned by us.

"The men asked me if I knew how the property line ran. I told them I thought I did. They told me to come and show them. 8-24-44

"I went down the road with them for some distance then we came to a car. The car was a late model Studebaker, I believe, with the gear shift on the steering wheel. It was grayish in color.

"I got in the back seat of the car and they drove about a quarter of a mile from my father's house. The man I didn't know did the driving. They kept telling me that my father and I were 'smart niggers' for going to see a lawyer.

"Three of them remained in the car with me; three walked up to my father's horse.

"Some time later, I saw the three men returning with my father. They were Noble Rider, Harper Dawson, and another man (I can't remember whether it was one of the Rider brothers or Spillman).

"Noble Rider and the other man were talking on either side of my 66-year-old father, Isaac Simmons, while Dawson walked behind him kicking and punching him. 8-24-44

"When they reached the car, they made my father get in the front seat. They all got in the car.

"My father begged them and prayed with them not to hurt him or me as they drove down the road. Two of them kept beating me as I sat in the back seat.

"Some distance down the road they stopped the car near a side road where there were lots of thickets. 'Let's take them down here,' one of the white men said.

"They told my father to get out of the car. He got out and started to run from the road. One of the men leveled the shotgun and fired twice at my father. One reloaded the gun, the other two ran in the direction my father had taken. The man who reloaded the gun ran off in that direction also, then I heard another shot. I begged the men in the car to spare my life. 8-24-44

"A while later, the other three returned. They all talked in low tones behind the car.

"Finally they came around and told me, Alright, nigger, we're going to let you go'. 8-24-44

"One of them told me to get out of the car; another said. 'I'll tell him when to get out.'

"Noble Rider asked me, 'You don't want to get beat up any more, do you?'

"I answered, 'I sure don't.'

"He said, 'If this comes up again, you had better not know anything about it.'

"They told me that they gave me ten days to get off the place and clear off my tenants. I had two tenants, Willie Huff, and A. B. Robinson, who worked for me. And also an old man, S. B. Moton, who had no other place to stay.

"When they put me out of the car, I was bloody, ragged and half-blind. I went to my sister's house and told what had happened.

"The news spread. Church meeting broke up and we all went down to where my father lay in the thickets. That was about 1 o'clock p.m.

"When we got to the thickets, we saw my father dead, lying half on his side. He had been shot three times in the back and some one said his arm was broken. Nearly all of his teeth had been knocked out, and his tongue was cut out.

"Some one went and got Constable George Hazelwood. The constable went and got the high sheriff.

"THEY HELD AN INQUEST AND GAVE THE VERDICT THAT MY FATHER HAD MET HIS DEATH AT THE HANDS OF UNKNOWN PARTIES." 8-24-44

In a letter to both the Governor and the U. S. Attorney General, the NAACP pointed out "This case clearly represents a conspiracy on the part of certain individuals (named in the affidavit) to injure, threaten, and intimidate these citizensz in the free exercise or enjoyment of rights secured to them by the United States Constitution."

you ten days to get everything you got off that place and clear yo-r hands off.' I had two tenants, A. B. Robinson, and Willie Huff, who lived on the farm and worked for me and an old man who had no place else to stay."

When they put me out, I went to my father's house a-bloody, ragged, battered and half-blind to t-ll what happened. The news spread. Church meeting broke up and we all went down where my father lay in the thickets. (This was between 12 and 1 p.m.)

When we got to the thickets there we saw my father lying half on his side, shot three times in the back and some one had knocked out with a nearby club, his arm broken, and his TONGUE CUT OUT. "Unknown Parties"

Someone went and got Constable George Hazelwood, who went and got the high sheriff.

They came and held an inquest with the verdict that my father met his death at the hands of 'unknown parties.' 6-24-44

We buried my father Wednesday, March 28. In the meatime I moved out all my stuff, sent my wife to live with her brother, and got places for all of my tenants except the old man. I couldn't find a place for him so I left him there. He had nowhere to go and is very old.

Sheriff Gives Letter

Son Kidnapped, Beaten, Jailed, Ordered From Town Over Property

Informer — Houston, Texas

6-24-44

By JASPER T. DUNCAN

NEW ORLEANS — "Hitler nor Hirohito in all their 'goriness' was not arrayed as one of these." This may well be the theme of the ghastly and atrocious acts perpetrated upon the Simmons family of Amite County, Miss, second district, as related here the past week-end by Eldredge Simmons, native-born farmer of the community, who escaped death after being kidnapped, beaten, slugged, abused, and forced to witness the brutal inhuman slaying of his father, the Rev. Isaac Simmons, March 26, by a mob of six white men, all of whom the former knew and recognized. 6-24-44

Simmons, the eldest of seven children of a family of farmers, escaped the fate of his father and finally made his way to New Orleans where he has been for several weeks in practical "fear and trembling," afraid to "talk" until now, from fear of reprisals against relatives and himself.

Property Background Kidnapping-Lynching

According to Mr. Simmons, an intelligent mustached-man in his late forties, the Simmons estate, heir property descending from his grandfather, Anthony Simmons comprises 295 acres of debt-free land, which at Anthony Simmons' death came to the Rev. Isaac Simmons and his seven children.

They had farmed the land, and lived good, peaceful lives, until a-

bout two or three years ago, when some white men began to try to make them sell the property and get possession. 6-24-44

"We refused to sell as we were getting along alright," Mr. Simmons stated. But they kept on hounding us and even went so far, about 18 months ago, to burn my barn full of corn, desrtoying it and a fine span of mules I had.

My father, a few months ago, went to Jackson, Miss., and employed a lawyer to straighten out the heir property, and fix it up so that they couldn't legally take it from us."

(Reaching in his pocket he produced a receipt from the sheriff showing that he, Eldredge, had paid the taxes on the property as late as February 1, 1944.

"My father had learned," he continued, "that there was the possibility of an oil vein running through our property, and he wanted to keep it for us and our children since all of us but one, Rollin, (who is in Chicago) were tending the land."

Called Him Nigger

The outwitted whites who were trying to get possession became angered over Rev. Simmons getting the lawyer, and on the morning of March 26, came to Eldredge Simmons home, called him out and asked him to show where some "hogs" was down the road, he said.

But let Simmons tell the rest of the story.

"The men were Noble Riley, the man who seemed to be the one most interested in getting the proprty; his two brothers, Harper Dawson, and Rabbit Spillman, and a man whose name I can't recall just now, but I know. 6-24-44

After we went down the road a few yards we came to a car and stopped. They cursed me, kicked me, beat me, tore my shirt off me, called me a smart 'nigger' and told me that they were going to kill me. I begged them not to.

'Well, get in the front seat of that car, we're going to get that preacher, (speaking of my father). There was a double-barrelled shotgun in the back seat, I noticed, and all had pistols.

When we got to my father's house three held guns on me, and three went in for him. My father was in the kitchen, washing his face and getting ready for breakfast. They called him out, called him a smart 'nigger' for going and getting a lawyer about this property.

Saw Father Murdered

He begged them and prayed with them not to hurt him nor me, as they drove down the road, still beating him in the back seat and had guns on me in the front seat. Some distance down the road the car was turned into a side road where there are lots of thickets. They drove a piece in there and then stopped the car. 6-24-44

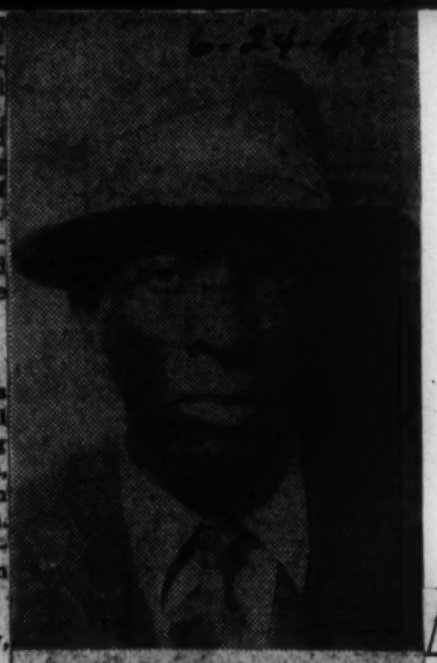
'Get out! We'll fix you,' they told my father. He got out and, although past 66 years of age, he started to

Finds Tongue Cut Out

they came and got into and said, 'alright "nigger," ing to let you go and give

In a little while the three returned "we're going to

Mississippi Minister Lynched



REV. ISAAC SIMMONS

A Revolting Crime

Star Of Zion—Charlotte, N.C.

One of the most revolting crimes in the annals of the nation is that of the lynch-murder of the Rev. Isaac Simmons, allegedly committed last March 26, in Amite county, Mississippi. Press reports reveal that Rev. Simmons was the owner of farm land, upon which there was valuable timber and where also there was believed to exist rich oil deposits.

Apparently efforts had been made to take possession of the land, and the owner, anticipating this move, had consulted a lawyer, with a view to safeguarding his interests. Shortly afterwards six white men, whom a son identified, came and seized the son; then seized and murdered the father, cutting out his tongue, and after beating the son, ordered him away with a warning to say nothing about the brutal murder.

Not until five months afterwards did the son muster up courage enough to make known the facts concerning the lynching, which was committed with the evident intention of taking the old man's land, which was debt-free and was inherited from the owner's father.

It seems almost incredible that such a heinous crime could be committed in a state and nation, whose people profess such noble ideals of freedom and security for all citizens. Congressman John Rankin, of Mississippi, who presumes to speak so authoritatively for the South and the nation, for that matter, might address himself, with great justification and necessity, to the task of straightening out some of the many abominable practices of his own state, among which this last instance is so revoltingly atrocious as to shock even Hitler himself.

If Mississippi authorities fail to ferret out and punish the perpetrators of this horrible crime, the state and the nation stand convicted of deliberately condoning violation of this man's constitutional rights in the enjoyment of freedom of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." And, unless Isaac Simmons were free, and he was not, then no citizen of Mississippi or any other state is perfectly free.

Can it be that Congress Rankin opposses a federal anti-lynching law so that such a crime as this may be committed and the criminals may go unpunished?

The day following the funeral, the high sheriff picked me up and took me to Magnolia, Miss., and placed me in jail, he said, for safe-keeping, as those men might kill me. He said of course I hadn't done anything but they might come and get me if I stayed around Amite.

I remained in jail there until April 6 when they let me out and Sheriff Smith, who was very nice to me, gave me a letter."

"Here it is."

(Text of letter is varbatim)

"To whom it may concern, this man can do good car repair, will work handy around timber logging or auto repair. Whoever hires him, if it be in Jackson, Miss., keep in touch with Sheriff Gordon Jackson. I would like to know his whereabouts. His name is Simmons from Liberty, Miss.

Signed: Sheriff Smith, Liberty, Mississippi.

"I made it to New Orleans where I am trying to do odd jobs to keep eating, and see if I can't get some help from some organization, organizations or people to see if we can't get some knid of justice done.

I was born and reared in Amite and have never been in trouble at all."

At the end of his story, the battered, tattered Simmons, as seasoned as he is, was almost in tears. "What I'd like to find out, mister, is can't something be done to those men for kidnaping me and murdering my father in cold blood? Can't somebody be made to pay for my crops in the fields, my property damage, and being deprived of my property and rights to make an honest living on the soil where I was born and reared? Can't some ends of justice be met to aid us in this case?"

WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?

Following his interview, he later called back and stated that he had contacted the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Ernest J. Wright of the People's Defense League, who arranged for the frightened victim to "talk."

The names of the relatives, immediate kin, with the exception of a brother, Rellin, whom Mr. Simmons believes immune from reprisals at his Chicago home, as well as the New Orleans address of the victim, are purposely withheld at his request for fear of violence to them as reprisals for his telling of his father's murder, his kidnapping and beating, and being forced to leave his property for confiscation.

He walked twenty-five blocks back to the office in a broiling New Orleans noon-day sun to make this request, which we honor.

They are, however, on file in our office.

66-Year-Old Pastor "Murdered Before Son"; He Sought to Protect His Property—Report

Amsterdam News—New York, N.Y.

NEW ORLEANS—A lynch-killing of a 66-year-old minister last March 26 in Amite county, Miss., because he hired a lawyer to safeguard his title to a 600-acre debt-free farm, has just been revealed in an affidavit sworn to by Eldridge Simmons, son of the murdered man.

Rev. Isaac Simmons was going peacefully about the business of running his farm and had no trouble until it began to be suspected that there was oil on his land. Whites then tried to "muscle in" and take his property away. When they found he had consulted a lawyer they got together a small mob and killed him in the presence of his son, who was later driven from the county.

Biddle Aid Sought

Eldridge Simmons sent his affidavit to the NAACP in New York which in turn has asked Governor Thomas L. Bailey of Mississippi to investigate. The NAACP also has asked Attorney General Francis Biddle to examine into the possibility that Federal conspiracy statutes have been violated.

The dramatic story of the lynching is told in the following paragraphs from the affidavit:

"Between 11 a. m. and 12 o'clock noon, March 26, 1944—which was on a Sunday—a group of white men including Noble Rider, two of his brothers, Harper Dawson, Rabbit Spillman, and a man I did not know, came to my house which is located about a mile from my father's house, both being on property owned by us.

"The men asked me if I knew how the property line ran. I told them I thought I did. They told me to come and show them.

"I went down the road with them for some distance then we came to a car. The car was a late model Studebaker, I believe, with the gear shift on the steering wheel. It was grayish in color.

Called "Smart Niggers"

"I got in the back seat of the car and they drove about a quarter of a mile from my father's house. The man I didn't know did the driving. They kept telling me that my father and I were 'smart niggers' for going to see a lawyer.

"Three of them remained in the car with me; three walked up to my father's house.

"Some time later, I saw the three men returning with my father. They were Noble Rider, Harper Dawson, and another man (I can't remember whether it was one of the Rider brothers or Spillman).

"Noble Rider and the other man were walking on either side of my 66-year-old father, Isaac Simmons, while Dawson walked behind him kicking and punching him.

"When they reached the car, they made my father get in the front seat. They all got in the car.

Father Begs and Pleads

"My father begged them and prayed with them not to hurt him or me as they drove down the road. Two of them kept beating me as I sat in the back seat.

"Some distance down the road they stopped the car near a side road where there were lots of thickets. 'Let's take them down here,' one of the white men said.

"They told my father to get out of the car. He got out and started to run from the road. One of the men leveled the shotgun and fired twice at my father. One reloaded the gun, the other two ran in the direction my father had taken. The man who reloaded the gun ran off in that direction also, then I heard another shot. I begged the men in the car to spare my life.

"A while later, the other three returned. They all talked in low tones behind the car.

"Finally, they came around and told me, 'All right, nigger, we're going to let you go.'

"One of them told me to get out of the car; another said, 'I'll tell him when to get out.'

"Noble Rider asked me 'You don't want to get beat up any more, do you?'

"I answered, 'I sure don't.'

Gets 10 Days To Leave

"He said, 'If this comes up again, you had better not know anything about it.'

"They told me that they gave me ten days to get off the place and clear off my tenants. I had two tenants, Willie Huff, and A. B. Robinson, who worked for me. And also an old man, S. B. Moton, who had no other place to stay.

"When they put me out of the car, I was bloody, ragged and half-blinded. I went to my sister's house and told what had happened.

"The news spread. Church meetings broke up and we all went down to where my father lay in the thickets. That was about 1 o'clock p. m.

"When we got to the thickets, we saw my father dead, lying half on his side. He had been shot three times in the back and some one said his arm was broken. Nearly all of his teeth had been knocked out, and his tongue was cut out.

"Some one went and got Constable George Hazelwood. The constable went and got the high sheriff.

"They held an inquest and gave the verdict that my father had met his death at the hands of unknwon parties."

Minister, 66, Lynched By Mob Wanting Farm

8-26-44

NEW ORLEANS, La.—A lynch-killing of a 66-year-old minister last March 26 in Amite county, Miss., because he hired a lawyer to safeguard his title to a 220-acre debt-free farm, has just been revealed in an affidavit sworn to by Eldridge Simmons, son of the murdered man.

Rev. Isaac Simmons was going peacefully about the business of running his farm and had no trouble until it began to be suspected that there was oil on his land. Whites then tried to "muscle in" and take his property away. When they found he had consulted a lawyer they got together a small mob and killed him in the presence of his son, who was later driven from the county.

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8-26-44

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"The men asked me if I know how the property line ran. I told them I thought I did. They told me to come and show them.

"I went down the road with them for some distance then we came to a car. The car was a late model Studebaker. I believe with the gear shift on the steering wheel. It was grayish in color.

"I got in the back seat of the car and they drove about a quarter of a mile from my father's house. The man I didn't know did the driving. They kept telling me that my father and I were 'smart niggers' for going to see a lawyer.

"Three of them remained in the car with me; three walked up to my father's house.

"Some time later, I saw the three men returning with my father. They were Noble Rider, Harper Dawson and another man (I can't remember whether it was one of the Rider brothers or Spillman).

"Noble Rider and the other man were walking on either side of my 66-year-old father, Isaac Simmons, while Dawson walked behind him kicking and punching him.

"When they reached the car, they made my father get in the front seat. They all got in the car.

"My father begged them and prayed with them not to hurt him or me as they drove down the road. Two of them kept beating me as I sat in the back seat.

"Some distance down the road they stopped the car near a side road where there were lots o fthickets. 'Let's take them down here,' one of the white men said.

"They told my father to get out of the car. He got out and started to run from the road. One of the men leveled the shotgun and fired twice at my father. One reloaded the gun, the other two ran in the direction my father had taken. The man who reloaded the gun ran off in that direction also, then I heard another shot. I begged the men in the car to spare my life.

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"One of them told me to get out of the car; another said, 'I'll tell him when to get out.'

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8-26-44

"I answered, 'I sure don't.'

"He said, 'If this comes up again, you had better not know anything about it.'

"They told me that they gave me ten days to get off the place and clear off my tenants. I had two tenants, Willie Huff, and A. B. Robinson, who worked for me. And also an old man, S. B. Moton, who had no other place to stay.

"When they put me out of the car, I was bloody, ragged and half-blind. I went to my sister's house and told what had happened.

"When we got to the thickets, we saw my father dead, lying half on his side. He had been shot three times in the back and some one said his arm was broken. Nearly all of his teeth had been knocked out and his tongue was cut out.

"Someone went and got Constable George Hazelwood. The constable went and got the high sheriff.

"They held an inquest and gave the verdict that my father had met his death at the hands of unknown parties."

9-26-44

In the letter to both the Governor and U. S. Attorney General, the NAACP pointed out "This case clearly represents a conspiracy on the part of certain individuals (named in the affidavit) to injure, threaten and intimidate these citizens in the free exercise or enjoyment of rights secured to them by the United States Constitution."

The sheriff told Eldridge that the white men might kill him if he stayed around Amite county. He was held in the Magnolia jail for nearly a month before being released.

8-26-44

Simmons revealed in his aidavit that his family, including his father, seven children and grandchildren, farmed the land and lived there without any trouble until two or three years ago, when a white man began trying to take possession of the Simmons property. It was to forestall this that the Rev. Mr. Simmons had consulted lawyers to safeguard the property for his legal heirs. Taxes on the property had been paid up to February 1 of this year.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ASKED TO ACT

In the letter to both the Governor of Mississippi and the U. S. Attorney General, the NAACP pointed out that "this case clearly represents a conspiracy on the part of certain individuals in the affidavit to injure, threaten and intimidate these citizens in the free exercise or enjoyment of rights secured to them by the United States Constitution."

An excerpt from Eldridge Simmons' affidavit reveals the following story of the murder:

"The men returned with my father, two of them walking beside him and the other behind, kicking and punching him. When they reached the car, they made my father get in the front seat. They all got in the car.

"My father begged them and prayed with them not to hurt him or me as they drove down the road. They stopped the car near a side road where there were a lot of thickets. 'Let's take them here,' one of the men said.

"They told my father to get out of the car. He got out and started to run from the road. One of them leveled the shotgun and fired twice at my father. One reloaded the gun; the other two ran in the direction my father had taken. The man who reloaded the gun ran in that direction also; then I heard another shot."

The leader of the murder gang then asked Eldridge:: "You don't want to get beat up any more, do you?" He then warned Eldridge that "if this comes up again you had better not know anything about it." They then gave the man 10 days to leave the farm and to clear it of his tenants.

Son Sees Aged Father Lynched

Journal & Guide — Norfolk, Va

Special to Journal and Guide

8-26-44

NEW ORLEANS, La.—In a sworn affidavit, now in the hands of the NAACP, Eldridge Simmons has revealed that he was a witness to the brutal lynching of his own 66-year-old father, the Rev. Isaac Simmons, because the father hired a lawyer to safeguard his debt-free, 200-acre farm in Amity County, Miss. The lynching is said to have occurred on March 26.

The son declared that the suspicion that oil might be found on his father's farm led to the trouble which ensued. His father was killed and his tongue was cut out, the son averred in the affidavit. The son was later driven out of the county, according to his statement.

Eldridge Simmons declared that whites tried to "muscle in" on his father's property and when the latter turned his affairs over to a lawyer for protection, the whites assembled a small mob and killed the aged minister in the presence of the son.

8-26-44

ASK FEDERAL PROBE

Simmons sent his affidavit to the NAACP in New York which in turn has asked Governor Thomas L. Bailey of Mississippi to investigate. The NAACP also has asked Attorney General Francis Biddle to examine into the possibility that Federal conspiracy statutes have been violated.

8-26-44

The dramatic story of the lynching is told in the following paragraphs from the affidavit:

"Between 11 a. m. and 12 o'clock noon, March 26, 1944—which was on a Sunday — a group of white men including" five named persons, "and a man I did not know, came to my house which is located about a mile from my father's house, both being on property owned by us.

"The men asked me if I knew how the property line ran. I told them I thought I did. They told me to come and show them.

DESCRIBES CAR

"I went down the road with them for some distance then we came to a car. The car was a late model Studebaker, I believe with the gear shift on the steering wheel. It was grayish in color.

"I got in the back seat of the car and they drove about a quarter of a mile from my father's house. The man I didn't know did the driving. They kept telling me that my father and I were 'smart niggers' for going to see a lawyer.

8-26-44

"Three of them remained in the car with me; three walked up to my father's house.

"Some time later, I saw the three men returning with my father." Two of them "were walking on either side of my 66-year-old father," while a third "walked behind him kicking and punching him.

"When they reached the car, they made my father get in the front seat. They all got in the car.

"My father begged them and prayed with them not to hurt him or me as they drove down the road. Two of them kept beating me as I sat in the back seat.

"Some distance down the road they stopped the car near a side road where there were lots of thickets. 'Let's take them down here,' one of the white men said.

9-26-44

FATHER SHOT

"They told my father to get out of the car. He got out and started to run from the road. One of the men leveled the shotgun and fired twice at my father. One reloaded the gun, the other two ran in the direction my father had taken. The man who reloaded the gun ran off in that direction also, then I heard another shot. I begged the men in the car to spare my life.

"A while later, the other three returned. They all talked in low tones behind the car.

"Finally, they came around and told me, 'All right, nigger, we're going to let you go.'

"One of them told me to get out of the car; another said, 'I'll tell him when to get out.'

THREATENED SON

One of them "asked me, 'You don't want to get beat up any more, do you?'

"I answered, 'I sure don't.'

"He said, 'If this comes up again, you had better not know anything about it.'

"They told me that they gave me ten days to get off the place and clear off my tenants. I had two tenants, Willie Huff, and A. D. Robinson, who worked for me. And also an old man, S. B. Moton, who had no other place to stay.

8-26-44

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the car, I was bloody, ragged and half-blind. I went to my sister's house and told what had happened.

"The news spread. Church meeting broke up and we all went down to where my father lay in the thickets. That was about 1 o'clock p. m.

TONGUE CUT OUT

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Farmer-Minister Slain, Tongue Cut Out By Miss. Land-Grabbers

World — Memphis, Tenn.

8-18-44

JACKSON, Miss.—(S N S)—Rev. Isaac Simmons, 66-year-old farmer-minister of Liberty, Amite County, Mississippi, was slain and his tongue cut out as a group of white men sought to take possession of his 220-acres of farm land, which contain valuable tracts of timber and upon which there is believed to exist rich oil.

The brutal slaying of the aged man began trying to take possession of the Simmons property. Several months prior to the brutal slaying, Rev. Simmons went to Jackson and hired a lawyer to straighten out matters so that no one could take it from the legal heirs and taxes were paid on the property as late as February 1, 1944 it was stated. It had been learned that there was a possibility of an oil vein running through the property and Rev. Simmons had indicated a desire to keep it for the family and heirs, all of his children except one, who were tending the land.

During February, Rev. Simmons cut some timber off the land, his son said in the affidavit. Two white men, one of them the man who had been trying to take the property, left word for him not to cut any more timber off the land. Rev. Simmons wrote his lawyer in Forest about the matter and was told not to cut any more timber off the land until he could straighten matters out. The lawyer's advice was obeyed.

8-18-44

Then late the morning of March 26 a group of six white men went to Eldridge Simmons' house which was located about a mile from his father's house and asked if he knew how the property line ran. After telling him he thought he did, Eldridge was invited to come and show them. They went down the road some distance, coming to a car. The group then began cursing and abusing Eldridge, calling him a "smart n----r" and telling him they were going to kill him, his affidavit continues. Eldridge begged for his life as a double barrelled shotgun was leveled at him and he was ordered to get into the car.

8-18-44

The group drove about a quarter of a mile from Rev. Simmons' house, the white men repeatedly telling Eldridge that he and his father were "smart n----rs" for going to see a lawyer. Thre of them walked up to Rev. Simmons house, while the other three kept Eldridge on the back seat of the car. Some time later the men returned with the elder Simmon, two of them walking beside him and the other behind, kicking and punching him.

BEGS FOR LIFE

"When they reached the car they made my father get in the front seat. Some distance down the road they stopped the car near a side road, where there were a lot of thickets. 'Let's take them here,' one of the men said. They told my father to get out of the car. He got out and started to run from the road. One of them leveled the shotgun and fired twice at my father. One reloaded the gun, the other two ran in the direction my father had taken. The man who loaded the gun ran in that direction also; then I heard another shot. A while later the other three returned. They all talked in low tones. I heard one of the hands of unknown partes." He came around and told me, 'All right, n----r, we're going to let you go.'"

8-18-44

The leader of the terroist-murderers asked Eldridge, "You don't want to get beat up any more, do you?" He was given the answer that "I sure don't" Eldridge was then warned, "If this comes up again, you had better not know anything about it." He was then told that he would be given ten days to get off the place and clear off his tenants.

Bloody, ragged and half-blind, Eldridge was put out of the car later, making his way to his sister's house where he told what had happened. The news spread. Church meeting broke up and the kinsmen and neighbors went down to where Rev. Simmons lay in the thickets. When they got there, the aged man was dead, lying half on his side. He had been shot three times in the back and his arm broken. Nearly all his teeth had been broken out and his tongue was cut out.

INQUEST IS HELD 8-18-44

A constable and the county sheriff were secured. An inquest was held and a verdict returned that Rev. Simmons "met death at the handes of unknown parties." He was buried three days later. In the meantime, Eldridge moved his belongings from his home, sent his wife to live with her brother and got places for his tenants.

The day following the funeral a deputy sheriff picked Eldridge up and took him to Magnolia, Miss. placing him in jail, he said, for safe-keeping. The deputy told Eldridge that the white men might kill him if he stayed around Amite County. The slain man's son remained in Magnolia jail until April 8 when Sheriff Wiley Smith, of Liberty, had him released and gave him a letter of identification.

The case of Eldridge Simmons has been forwarded to Attorney Thurgood Marshall, special counsel of the NAACP, requesting that the case be filed with the United States Department of Justice and asking that justice be rendered.

8-18-44

Son Tortured On Valuable 220-Acre Farm At Issue

8-18-44

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In his signed affidavit, the son of the slain man stated that the 220-acre debt-free farm came to his father and his seven children upon the death of his grandfather, Anthony Simmons, who died in 1929. So far as could be learned here no arrest had been made in connection with the slaying other than the arrest of the son, who was held in Liberty jail for several days for safekeeping.

8-18-44

TROUBLE STARTED RECENTLY

Simmons revealed in the affidavit that his family, including his father, seven children and grandchildren, farmed the land and lived there without any trouble until two or three years ago when a white

BULLETIN!

Edward R. Dudley, assistant special NAACP counsel, said Wednesday that the Simmons terrorism-murder case affidavit had been forwarded to U. S. Attorney General Francis Biddle in Washington and Governor Thomas L. Bailey, of Mississippi, requesting immediate investigation and prosecution of the men responsible. 8-18-44

Names of the Rev. Mr. Simmons' slayers and their accomplices, as well as those of the tenants removed from the farm, Eldridge Simmons mentioned in the signed affidavit of the living victim, have been withheld from this story in the interest of speeding sure justice in the case.

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Son Tortured On Valuable 220-Acre Farm At Issue

8-11-44

BULLETIN!

Edward R. Dudley, assistant special NAACP counsel, said Wednesday that the Simmons terrorism-murder case affidavit had been forwarded to U. S. Attorney General Francis Biddle in Washington and Governor Thomas L. Bailey, of Mississippi, requesting immediate investigation and prosecution of the men responsible. 8-18-44

STATE POLICE SENT IN AFTER NEGRO-LYNCHING

Guard Against Further Mob Violence In Slaying Of Woman At Pikeville

From The Commercial Appeal Nashville Bureau

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 23.—State Highway Patrolmen were rushed into Bledsoe County Thursday afternoon to guard against further outbreaks of mob violence following the slaying of James Thomas Scales, a negro trusty at the Herbert Domain School School for Negro Boys near Pikeville, who earlier had hacked to death Mrs. Gwen McKenney, 16-year-old daughter of Supt. H. E. Scott, and seriously beaten Mrs. Scott.

The patrolmen were under the direct supervision of State Safety Chief Lynn Bomar, who was ordered to the scene by Governor Cooper Thursday morning following receipt of the first word of the killing of Mrs. McKenney and the beating of Mrs. Scott.

Mob Shoots Negro

Later, after the Bledsoe County mob had taken Scales from the jail at Pikeville and took him back to the school where he was shot, it was understood the number of patrolmen ordered into the area was increased, with instructions that they remain on duty for several days to guard against further outbreaks.

According to reports reaching the State Department of Institutions, under whose jurisdiction the negro school comes, Scales was a trusty at the school and had gone to the Scott home to build fires early Thursday morning. Superintendent Scott was in Nashville at the time of the tragedy and was first advised of the death of his daughter and the attack on his wife by Institutions Commissioner W. O. Baird.

Mrs. Scott was rushed to a hospital in Chattanooga, where she was reported late Thursday afternoon to have regained consciousness.

Wife Of Bombardier

Mrs. McKinney was the wife of a bombardier with the Army Air Forces overseas, and had been living at the home of her parents about three weeks.

According to reports from Pikeville, the negro, said to be around 16 years old, used an ax, a butcher knife, and a hammer in the attack of the two women.

The crime was not discovered until around 9 o'clock, when investigators went to find out why Mrs. Scott, a matron, had not gone to the school for her regular duties.

Immediately after the crime Scales left the school and was walking toward Pikeville when a former employe of the institution who was unaware of the crime recognized him walking along the highway and returned him to the school. Later Scales was taken to Pikeville and placed in jail by officers.

Woman Releases Negro

The mob went to the jail and reportedly claimed that officers wanted the negro at the school. A woman employe was in charge of the jail in the absence of Sheriff Henry Goforth and released the negro to the group. They then took him to the school gounds and considered hanging the youth, but were urged by Assistant Supt. W. W. S. Neil not to do so. The mob refused to listen and reportedly took the negro on farther into the school grounds, where he was shot several times.

Later they took his body to a room in the school and summoned all of the inmates to view it.

Pikesville Police Chief W. M. Tollett said Thursday afternoon that he had been informed the negro admitted the attacks on the two women before he was slain. He said Scales claimed he attacked them after Mrs. Scott had refused to give him the keys to her automobile.

Tollett said he did not see the mob, but that it was a small group.

Had Long Record

Scales was sent to the institution from Nashville on a robbery charge. He had a long record in the Nashville Juvenile Court bebinning on Dec. 31, 1937, when he was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct at the age of 9. He was sentenced Oct. 24, 1944, on a charge of highway robbery and carrying a pistol in connection with the holdup of two women in front of the Polk Apartments in downtown Nashville.

State officials here Thursday, who declined use of their names, said residents in the vicinity of the school had never approved of the institution being in their locality and that the additional number of patrolmen ordered into the area was a precautionary measure to guard against any further demonstrations against other inmates and against the school proper.

Tennessee Mob Lynches Suspect

By United Press

PIKEVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 24.—A young Negro trusty who was charged with attacking and killing Mrs. Glen McKinney, daughter of the superintendent of the State Training and Agriculture School for Colored Boys yesterday was shot to death today by a mob of citizens.

The youth, James T. Scales, 17, had been held at the Pikeville Jail about six hours when a group came and asked for his release, saying, Jail authorities declared, that he was wanted back at the school.

He was released from his cell and taken back to the institution by the growing mob, which had a rope. The youth, witnesses said, pleaded for his life, but "was shot to death when he attempted to run away."

7182

Governor Of Tennessee Posts $500 Reward For Arrest Of Lynchers Of Youth On Grounds Of Reformatory

New York City N.Y., N.Y.
11-25-44

PIKEVILLE, Tenn.—A $500 reward for those guilty in the lynching, Thanksgiving night, of James T. Scales, young Negro trusty of the State Training and Agricultural School (a reformatory), was offered Friday by Governor Prentice Cooper. 11-25-44

The youth was shot to death by a crowd which took him away from the jail after the daughter of the superintendent of the school had been killed and his wife injured.

Sentenced from Nashville on a robbery charge, young Scales was "shot to death," according to Police Chief W. M. Tollett, after a small crowd obtained custody of him from a woman employee at the jail while Sheriff Henry Goforth was absent.

The youth had been taken to the jail after Mrs. Gwinn McKinney, daughter of the school superintendent, was found dead, and Mrs. H. E. Scott, her mother, unconscious in their home. Scales was taken from the jail by eight or ten persons, according to the police chief and brought to the reformatory, where Paul Treanor, bookkeeper at the institution, said the crowd made plans to hang him. 11-25-44

W. S. Neil, assistant superintendent, spoke to the mob and urged them not to hang the youth, and the mob then took Scales deeper into the school's grounds and then shot him to death. Later, students were rounded up and paraded by the body which was left lying in the yard of the superintendent.

ILD OFFERS REWARD

The International Labor Defense on Tuesday, posted a reward of $500 for information which leads to the arrest, conviction, and punishment of any person or persons for the lynching of James I. Scales. According to Congressman Vito Marcantonio, president of the ILD, "payment will be made upon final judgment of conviction, without regard to any other rewards posted.

Reform Youth Lynched by Mob

The Peoples Voice N.Y.N.Y. 12-9-44

The Anna Damon Fund of the International Labor Defense this week matched the Tennessee governor's $500 as an award for the arrest and conviction of any of the guilty persons involved in the lynching of 17-year-old James T. Scales, a trusty of the state reformatory, last Thursday. The award now stands at $1,000. Scales was shot to death when he attempted to escape from a lynch-bent mob which took him from jail in Pikeville, Tenn., where he had been held, accused of slaying a young white woman and fatally beating her mother. According to the story, Scales was assigned several weeks ago as a cook in the home of the superintendent of the State Training and Agricultural School for Negro Boys. He is said to have become enraged when the daughter, Mrs. Gwinn McKinney, refused to lend him the keys to her car. He then attacked her with an axe, killing her, it is reported, and beat her mother, Mrs. H. E. Scott, who died later. 12-2-44

Following Scale's arrest, he was left in the custody of a woman attendant at the jail by Sheriff Henry Goforth. The mob is said to have obtained his release from the woman after te'ling her that the boy was wanted at the school. Scales was then dragged to the school lawn and shot when he attempted to run away, after pleading with the mob to spare his life. The NAACP is investigating the case before it decides on what action to take. The American Civil Liberties Union has written to the Department of Justice asking that it investigate the matter.

Chief of Police W. M. Tollett, who was in Nashville at the time of the lynching, said that the crowd which took Scales from the jail was composed of "eight or ten" persons, but that he had not seen them and did not know whether they were disguised. 12-2-44

Officials of the school discovered the attack when they investigated the Scott home after Mrs. Scott failed to report to her work as matron. Paul Treanor, bookkeeper at the school, said that the women's bodies appeared to have been attacked with an axe, two butcher knives and a hammer.

Treanor said that at first preparations were made to hang the boy, but that W. S. Neil, assistant superintendent of the school, spoke to the group, urging them not to do it and the crowd took the youth deeper into the grounds and shot him. Later, he said, students gathered and paraded by the body. 12-2-44

Nashville juvenile court records show that Scales was first arrested for disorderly conduct, at the age of 9. When he was 12, he was again arrested, charged with housebreaking and larceny. He had also been accused of destroying property and purse snatching, as well as with highway robbery and assaults with a knife.

Tennessee Offers $500 for Lynchers

Afro American Baltimore Md 12-2-44

PIKESVILLE, Tenn.—A reward of $500 is being offered by Tennessee's governor for the arrest and conviction of guilty mobsters in Thursday's lynching of James I. Scales, 17-year-old trusty who was accused of slaying a young white woman and beating her mother fatally.

State officials have also promised an immediate and complete probe into the lynching of Scales, said to have had a long Nashville juvenile court record, who was taken from the county jail by a mob of a dozen or more men and dragged through the streets.

After pleading frantically for his life, the boy attempted to break away, but was shot down before he had gone 20 feet on the grounds of the nearby Tennessee State Training and Agricultural School, a reformatory for colored boys, where Scales was an inmate. 12-2-44

Cook in Victims' Home

Scales was accused of the double killing of Mrs. Gwendolyn McKennie, 21, daughter of the superintendent of the reformatory, and her mother, Mrs. H. E. Scott, both white, the latter of whom was taken to a Chattanooga hospital where she later died.

According to the story, Scales was assigned several weeks ago as a cook in the superintendent's home. After he was refused use of Mrs. Scott's car, it is reported, he attacked the two women with a knife and a hammer and went his way.

The attack was revealed by an investigation instituted after Mrs. Scott, a matron at the school, was late for her duties. The mob, which formed immediately, obtained Scales's release by telling the jail-keeper the boy was wanted back at the school.

Lynch Negro After Slaying of Yank's Wife

Tribune

Pikeville, Tenn., Nov. 23 [Special]—A mob of about a dozen men today took a Negro from the county jail and shot him to death after he assertedly had admitted fatally stabbing a young white woman and seriously wounding her mother.

The slain woman was the daughter of H. E. Scott, superintendent of the nearby Tennessee State Training and Agricultural school, a reformatory for juveniles, of which the Negro was an inmate trusty. The wounded woman is Scott's wife. 11-24-44

Officials of the school found the women lying in pools of blood in their residence on the school grounds. The daughter, Mrs. Gwinn McKinney, 21, bride of an army flyer now overseas, was dead. Her mother, a matron at the reformatory, was unconscious. Superintendent Scott was in Nashville at the time. Tribune

Weapons of Assailant.

Paul Treanor, bookkeeper at the reformatory, said it appeared the women had been attacked with an ax, two butcher knives and a hammer.

A short time after discovery of the attack, employes of the school seized James T. Scales, 17, Negro trusty, on a nearby road. Scales, sentenced to the reformatory from Nashville on a robbery charge, had been assigned about two weeks ago to work as a cook in the superintendent's home.

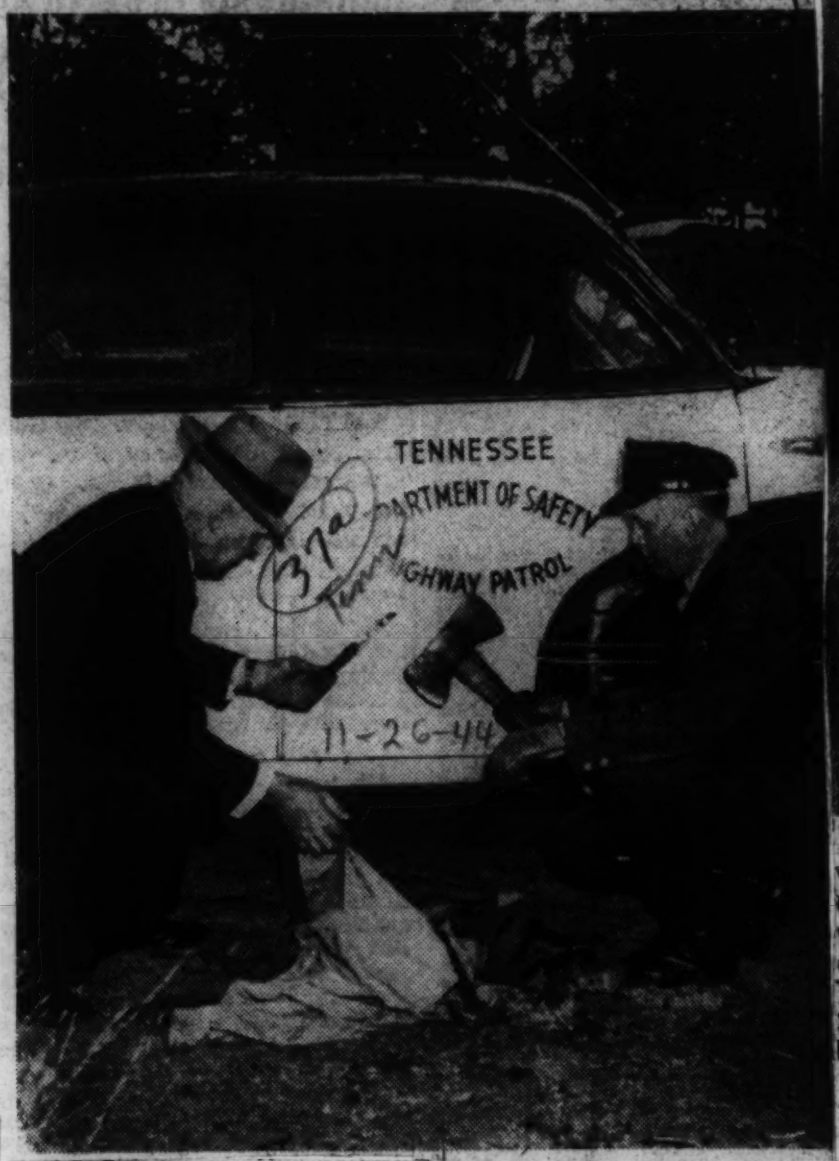
Scales was returned to the reformatory, then taken to the jail. A mob soon appeared there and obtained custody of him from a woman employee while Sheriff Henry Goforth was absent. Treanor said the mob told the woman jail custodian that Scales was wanted back at the reformatory. Later were assembled and paraded by the body.

Chief of Police W. M. Tollett said that just before he was informed that Scales was shot he had admitted attacking the women with a hammer and a knife. Scales was quoted as saying he attacked the women after Mrs. Scott had refused his demand for the superintendent's home early this morning to herto build fires and begin the day's cooking.

7183

Jail Attendant Re-enacts Her Part In Release Of Murderer

With her daughter, Wanda, is her arms, Mrs. Ruth Douglas, cook and attendant at the Bledsoe County Jail in Pikeville, Tenn., demonstrates how she unlocked a cell door and released James T. Scales, young negro reformatory trusty, to a group of men. The negro, accused of killing the daughter and wife of H. E. Scott, superintendent of the reformatory, later was shot to death.



Lynn Bomar (left), chief of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, and Patrolman Trabue Lewis examine a knife and an ax apparently used in killing Mrs. McKinnie, wife of an air officer, and Mrs. Scott.
—Associated Press Photos

Mrs. Glendolyn McKinnie was found dead and her mother, Mrs. H. E. Scott, fatally wounded at their home on the grounds of the Tennessee Training and Agricultural School, a reformatory near Pikeville.

MORE OFFICERS SENT TO LYNCHING COUNTY

Citizens Resent Investigation To Determine Guilt

From The Commercial Appeal

Nashville Bureau

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 25.—Additional highway patrolmen were sent into the area around Pikeville Saturday morning as the state's investigation into the mob slaying of a 16-year-old negro trusty at the State Reformatory there two days earlier was resumed under the direction of Safety Director Lynn Bomar.

The negro, James Thomas Scales, early Thursday morning had murdered Mrs. Gwendolyn McKinney, 19, and fatally beaten her mother, Mrs. H. E. Scott, wife of the reformatory superintendent. Mrs. Scott died Thursday night in a Chattanooga hospital. Chief Bomar had returned to Nashville Friday night after a day and a half in the area, but was recalled to Pikeville Saturday by officials of the reformatory, who feared further demonstrations against the institution and its inmates by Bledsoe County residents.

According to reports reaching Nashville Saturday, feeling was running high in the county against the presence of the highway patrolmen and residents resented any attempts to identify participants in the mob.

A reward of $500 was offered by Governor Cooper for the arrest and conviction of any member of the mob.

Extra precautions were being taken, it was reported here, to prevent demonstrations by inmates also against the school, since on previous occasions buildings there have been set afire by inmates.

Services for Mrs. Scott and Mrs. McKinney are to be held Sunday afternoon at the Church of Christ in McMinnville.

Lynching Was Second In Country This Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Nov. 25—(AP)—The fatal shooting of James T. Scales, 16-year-old negro regormatory school trusty, in Tennessee last Thursday, was the nation's second lynching of the year, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said Saturday.

Dr. Patterson said records in Tuskegee Institute's office on research and records showed the other lynching this year occurred in Mississippi.

Three lynchings were recorded last year—one each in Florida, Georgia and Illinois—Dr. Patterson reported.

Citizens Raise Reward For Mob Arrest To $1,800

Special to Journal and Guide

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Negro residents of this city have added $800 to the $500 reward offered by Governor Prentice Cooper for the apprehension and conviction of those guilty of lynching James T. Scales, trusty at the State Reformatory at Pikeville on Nov. 23, while Congressman Vito Marcantonio of New York, president of the National Labor Defense League, has added another $500.

The total reward to date is $1,800, with the probability that this amount will be considerably increased as state-wide responses to an appeal by the Nashville Ministers Alliance begin to come in.

At a recent mass meeting called by the executive committee of the al... of which the Rev. ... is president, at ... Baptist Church ... Jesse Jai McNeil, pas... approximately 1,000 persons ...ding citizens outline ... to be taken with the ...ringing the perpetra... lynching to justice.

The Rev. J. T. Patton, declar... the fair name of the State of Tennessee ... disgraced, and calling ... Volunteer State ... had been disgr...

LETTER TO GOVERNOR

In a letter prepared to be forwarded to the state capitol and read by the Rev. C. M. Johnson, ... for funds to supplement those offered by the governor as a reward, said that all true Americans should arise to defend the cause of law and order. In response to his plea over $521 was raised in a few minutes which sum was later augmented to ...$800.

the Ministers' Alliance pledged support to the governor in his effort to bring the offenders to justice.

Principal speakers were Rev. Mr. Patton, Rev. Mr. McNeil, Dean W. J. Faulkner and Attorney Z. A. Looby.

The alliance, through it executive committee is contacting other religious and civic groups throughout Tennessee and the nation, to solicit their support in its effort to wipe out mob violence. Groups wishing information or desiring to make contributions are asked to address communications to the Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance, P. O. Box 12, Nashville, Tenn.

PRAISE GOVERNOR

In their letter to Governor Cooper, the ministers commended the state executive for his "prompt and praiseworthy action in your personal effort to apprehend and convict the persons responsible for the mob violence at Pikeville."

"On the basis of inconsistencies in newspaper reports," the letter stated, "there is a questionable doubt within our minds that James Thomas Scales was guilty of the crime which he is supposed to have committed.

"If he were guilty, we disapprove of the act under the moral laws of God. We likewise disapprove of mob violence on any human life."

Incident at Pikeville

Discovery of the crime brought Tennessee State Patrolmen on the run last week to the State Training and Agricultural School, a reformatory for Negro boys 8 to 18. In the home of H. E. Scott, the superintendent, Scott's wife lay dying; his daughter Gwendolyn McKinney, wife of a bombardier overseas, was dead. Both were victims of a brutal assailant who apparently had wielded an ax, a hammer, and a butcher knife.

Within a matter of hours the jail in nearby Pikeville housed the suspected killer: 17-year-old James T. Scales, reformatory inmate whose juvenile court record began with an arrest at 9 for purse-snatching and who was put in the state school only a few weeks ago for his latest crime—a holdup of two women. Made a trusty, Scales had been assigned to household chores for the Scotts.

Progress of a Lynching: A few hours after Scales had been apprehended two unidentified persons arrived at the Pikeville jail to request his release. The prisoner, they claimed, was wanted back at school. A woman employe in charge yielded him up.

Toward the reformatory went the trio, escorted by a crowd that kept growing. Ominous preparations began. A rope was draped over a tree limb, only to be discarded at the plea of the assistant superintendent of the school. But the mob would listen no more. The Negro struggled. Suddenly he broke loose. Shots resounded. In front of the new $250,000 reformatory building, Scales fell lifeless. Later his lynchers carried his body into a small room and paraded his fellow inmates past it as an object lesson.

Acme

Mrs. McKinney: A lynching for her murder

Tension in Pikeville stayed at a high pitch. Never too happy about having a center for delinquents so near at hand, and none too pleased with the investigation ordered by Gov. Prentice Cooper (who also offered a $500 reward for the arrest and conviction of those responsible), the town seethed with whispered threats to overpower the armed guard posted at the school and burn the place down.

The last such Tennessee lynching occurred in 1940. In that year residents of Brownsville, enraged when local Negroes sought information about requirements for voting in the Presidential election, dragged them from their homes, beat them up, and threw one into the river, where he drowned.

LYNCHING IN TENNESSEE

THE lynching of a 17-year-old Negro youth in the yard of the residence of the superintendent of the State Training and Agricultural School (a reformatory), near Pikeville, Tenn., is a splendid example, if any is needed, of the callous disregard that exists in many Southern states for the orderly processes of law. Justice just doesn't exist for the Negro.

According to dispatches from Tenn., James T. Scales, 17, a trusty at the reformatory for Negro boys, was shot to death on Thanksgiving Day by a crowd which took him away from the jail after the daughter of the school superintendent of the school had been killed and his wife severely injured.

The youth, who had been sentenced from Nashvile on a robbery charge, was "shot to death", according to Police Chief W. M. Tollett, after a small crowd obtained custody of him from a woman employee at the jail while Sheriff Henry Goforth was absent. Scales had been taken to the jail after Mrs. Gwinn McKinney had been found dead and her mother, Mrs. H. E. Scott, unconscious at their home.

The police chief said the crowd which took the youth from the jail was composed of "eight or ten" persons, but said he had not seen them and did not know whether they were disguised. Paul Treanor, bookkeeper at the reformatory, said that Scales, who had left the grounds after the attack, was found and brought back to the school by a former employee, who did not know about the killing. He was taken to the jail but later brought back, Treanor said, by the crowd which told the jail custodian that school authorities wanted him.

Treanor said that preparations first were made to hang Scales, but that W. S. Neil, assistant superintendent, spoke to the group, urging them not to do it and that they then took the youth deeper into the grounds and shot him to death. Later, he said, students were gathered and paraded by the body.

Anyone reading the above brief account will be struck by several things. In the first place, if the youth was confined to jail, it was the right of the jail authorities to refuse to turn him over to any mob, crowd or even a single individual to take him back to the school, unless the reformatory authorities, themselves, requested custody of the prisoner and guaranteed his safety. In the second place, after the youth had been taken by the mob to the school, it was the responsibility of the assistant superintendent, the bookkeeper, and any other person of authority there, to take the prisoner away from the mob.

It certainly was not the job of the assistant superintendent to speak to the mob and urge that he be not hanged there on the premises or anywhere else. The assistant superintendent should have, and he could have if he wanted, prevented the lynching by calling on others to rescue the helpless prisoner from the mob. And finally, after the youth was shot to death in the yard of the superintendent's house, it certainly looks as though reformatory officials themselves must have aided and abetted the mob by permitting the students to be paraded by the body of the lynched victim.

It is not expecting too much for the State of Tennessee to hold a thorough investigation of all of the circumstances of this lynching, of what part the jailer played in it and the laxity of the reformatory officials themselves to do anything about it. And finally, there must be punishment of those who have committed the lynching.

Reward Offered For Tennessee Lynchers

PIKEVILLE, Tenn. — (ANP) — While a reward of $500 is being offered by Tennessee's governor for the arrest and conviction of the guilty mobsters in the lynching of James I. Scales, 17-year-old trusty who was accused of slaying a young white woman and fatally beating her mother, state officials say that an immediate and complete probe will be launched.

Scales, who is said to have had a long record in Nashville Juvenile court, was taken from the county jail by a mob of a dozen or more men and dragged through the streets, some of the men carrying a long rope.

After dragging their victim for a distance in the streets, members of the mob, told by Asst. Supt. W. S. Neil of the reformatory, that he didn't want anything like that done here," brought the mob to an early end by firing shots into the body of the boy. According to the story, Scales was assigned several weeks ago as a cook in the superintendent's home. After he was refused the use of Mrs. Scott's car, he attacked the two women with a knife and hammer, and then went away.

When Mrs. Scott, a matron at the reformatory, was late for her duties at the schools, officials attempted to find her. The latter investigating, learned of the

YOUTH LYNCHED AFTER ATTACKS

ala. 11-24-44

PIKEVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 23—(AP)—Chief of Police W. M. Tollett said Thursday that a Negro trusty at the Tennessee State Tfaining and Agricultural School (reformatory) for Negro boys near here was shot to death by a crowd which took him away from the jail after the daughter of the superintendent of the school had been killed and his wife severely injured.

The trusty, James T. Scales, 17, who had been sentenced from Nashville on a robbery charge, was "shot to death," the police chief said, after a small crowd obtained custody of him from a woman employed at the jail while Sheriff Henry Goforth was absent. 11-24-44

The Negro had been taken to jail after Mrs. Gwinn McKinney had been found dead and her mother, Mrs. H. E. Scott, unconscious at their residence. Superintendent Scott was in Nashville at the time.

Chief Tollett said he had been informed that before he was shot Scales had admitted attacking the women with a hammer and knife.

Scales was quoted as saying he made the attack after he asked Mrs. Scott for the keys to her automobile and she refused them.

Body Left On Grounds

Chief Tollett said that so far as he knew the body of Scales still was lying Thursday afternoon in the yard of the Scott residence where he was shot. He said the crowd which took the Negro from the jail was composed of "eight or ten" persons, but said he had not seen them and did not know whether they were disguised.

Paul Treanor, bookkeeper at the reformatory, said that Scales, who recently had been assigned to work at the superintendent's house, had gone there Thursday morning to build fires and cook.

Officials of the school discovered the attack when they investigated after Mrs. Scott, a matron, failed to report for work. Treanor said it appeared the women had been attacked with an ax, two butcher knives and a hammer.

Meanwhile, Scales, who had left the grounds was found and brought back to the school by a former employe, who did not know about the tragedy. He was taken to the jail, but later brought back, Treanor said, by the crowd which told the jail custodian that school authorities wanted him.

Treanor said that preparations first were made to hang Scales but that Assistant Supt. W. S. Neil spoke to the group, urging them not to do it and that they then took the youth deeper into the grounds and shot him to death.

Students View Body

Later, he said, students were gathered and paraded by the body.

Mrs. McKinney was the wife of Lt. Charles H. McKinney, 23, of Spencer, Tenn., who about three weeks ago went overseas as an Army bombardier and his wife returned to live with her family. Lt. McKinney is the stepson of J. L. Graham, president of the Spencer Citizens Bank.

Gov. Prentice Cooper immediately ordered the State Highway Patrol to make an investigation.

Nashville Juvenile Court records show that Scales was first arrested for disorderly conduct at the age of 9. When he was 12, he was charged with housebreaking and larceny and his record includes three cases of highway hobbery and two of assault with a knife. He also had been accused of destroying property and purse snatching.

His sentence to Pikeville last October followed conviction on charges of highway robbery and carrying a pistol after he allegedly had held up two women on the streets of Nashville and taken their purses.

Mob Kills Negro As Ax Murderer

Advertiser 11-24-44
Montgomery, Ala.

PIKEVILLE, TENN., Nov. 23—(U.P.)—An incensed mob of citizens today secured the release of a 17-year-old negro from his jail cell with the intention of lynching him for killing the young wife of an Army bombardier and shot him to death when he attempted to escape.

The negro, James T. Scales, killed Mrs. Glen McKinney, daughter of the superintendent of the State Training and Agricultural School for Colored Boys, where Scales was a trusty. He reportedly used a double-bladed ax in the brutal murder, and, after killing the girl, turned on her mother, Mrs. H. E. Scott, who was taken to a Chattanooga hospital where she was reported in a "very critical condition."

State Highway patrolmen immediately apprehended Scales and he was taken to the Pikeville jail until aroused citizens demanded his release, saying he was wanted back at the school.

Officials at the institution were unable to ascribe any motive to the negro's attack on the women.

Lynch Probe Continued By Patrolmen

Knoxville, Tenn
Journal

PIKEVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 24—State Highway patrolmen assigned to the State Reformatory here after the fatal shooting of a young Negro trusty by a group of men who removed him from the Bledsoe County Jail yesterday, will remain at the school tonight, State Safety Director Lynn Bomar said.

The shooting of James T. Scales, 16-year-old Negro trusty accused in the brutal slayings of Mrs. Charles H. McKinnie, 19, and her mother, Mrs. H. E. Scott, who died in a Chattanooga Hospital last night, is being investigated by Bomar and Department of Safety Attorney J. J. Dolan.

Captured 11-24-44

Scales, who had been working in the home of Scott, superintendent of the State Training and Agricultural School for for Negro Boys, was captured by two farmers who suspected him of escaping from the school, but knew nothing of the slaying. Scott was away at the time of the attacks.

Virgil Davis, storkeeper at the reformatory, took Scales to the jail where three men, representing themselves as being from the school, induced Mrs. Ruth Douglas, jail cook and attendant, to release the Negro to them.

Assistant Reformatory Superintendent W. S. Neil, who with Davis, discovered the body of Mrs. McKinnie and her badly battered mother, said the men returned to the school and threatened to hang Scales from a tree in front of one of the dormitories.

Several Shots

After he remonstrated the men tossed the rope away and as he turned aside to speak to another school employe several shots rang out, Neil said, adding that afterward the men urged other Negro inmates to view Scales' body "as an example." Neil said he did not recognize any of the men in the group. 11-24-44

Neil said the Negro admitted the attacks on the two women, in which a butcher knife, hammer and double-bitted axe were used.

Bomar, ordered to conduct the investigation by Gov. Prentice Cooper, who offered a reward of $500 for arrest and conviction of "those guilty in this lynching," said he will have nothing to say pending completion of his report and its submission to the governor.

The Department of Social Sciences at Fisk University, Nashville, reported the last lynching in the state was at Brownsville in June of 1940.

Crowd Seizes, Slays Trusty

Knoxville, Tenn
Journal

Over Killing

PIKEVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 23 (AP)—Chief of Police W. W. Tollett said today a Negro trusty at the Tennessee State Training and Agricultural School (reformatory) for Negro boys near here was shot to death by a crowd which took him away from the jail after the daughter of the superintendent of the school had been killed and his wife severely injured. 11-23-44

The elder woman, taken to a Chattanooga hospital, died at 8:15 p. m. without regaining consciousness.

The trusty James T. Scales, 17, who had been sentenced from Nashville on a robbry charge, was "shot to death," the police chief said, after a small crowd obtained custody of him from a woman employe at the jail while Sheriff Henry Goforth was absent.

Was Taken To Jail

The Negro had been taken to the jail after Mrs. Gwinn McKinney had been found dead and her mother, Mrs. H. E. Scott, unconscious at their residence. Superintendent Scott was in Nashville at the time.

Chief Tollett said he had been informed before he was shot Scales had admitted attacking the women with a hammer and knife.

Scales was quoted as saying he made the attack after he asked Mrs. Scott for the keys to her automobile and she refused them.

Body Still In Scotts' Yard

Chief Tollett said that so far as he knew the body of Scales still was lying this afternoon in the yard of the Scott residence where he was shot. He said the crowd which took the Negro from the jail was composed of "eight or ten" persons but said he had not seen them and did not know whether they were disguised.

Paul Treanor, bookkeeper at the reformatory, said Scales, who recently had been assigned to work at the superintendent's house, had gone there this morning to build fires and cook. 11-23-44

Officials of the school discovered the attack when they investigated after Mrs. Scott, a matron, failed to report for work. Treanor said it appeared the women had been attacked with an axe, two butcher knives and a hammer.

Meanwhile Scales, who had left the grounds was found and brought back to the school by a former employe who did not know about the tragedy. He was taken to the jail but later brought back, Treanor said, "by the crowd which told the jail custodian school authorities wanted him.

Lynching Planned 11-23-44

Treanor said preparations first were made to hang Scales but that Assistant Superintendent W. S. Neil spoke to the group, urging them not to do it and that they then took the youth deeper into the grounds and shot him to death.

Later, he said, students were gathered and paraded by the body.

Mrs. McKinley, the wife of an Army bombardier who has just gone overseas, had been home just about a week, Treanor said.

Her father, who was in Nashville conferring with State Institutions Commissioner W. O. Baird was first informed of the tragedy there and left immediately for Chattanooga, where his wife was taken for hospital treatment. Her condition was regarded as serious.

Investigation Ordered

Gov. Prentice Cooper, informed of the occurrence by Commissioner Baird, immediately ordered the state highway patrol to make an investigation. 11-23-44

Nashville juvenile court records show Scales was first arrested for disorderly conduct at the age of nine. When he was 12, he was charged with housebreaking and larceny and his record includes three cases of highway robbery and two of assault with a knife. He also had been accused of destroying property and purse-snatching.

His sentence to Pikeville last October followed conviction on highway robbery and carrying a pistol after he allegedly had held up two women on the streets of Nashville and taken their purses.

YOUTH IS LYNCHED AT A REFORMATORY

11-24-44

Negro Taken From Tennessee Jail And Shot After Warden's Daughter Is Slain

PIKEVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 23 (AP)—James T. Scales, 17, a trusty at the State Training and Agricultural School (reformatory) for Negro boys near here, was shot to death by a crowd which took him away from the jail after the daughter of the superintendent of the school had been killed and his wife severely injured.

7179

brought back to the school by a former employe, who did not know about the tragedy. He was taken to the jail but later brought back, Mr. Treanor said, by the crowd which told the jail custodian that school authorities wanted him.

Mr. Treanor said that preparations first were made to hang Scales, but that W. S. Neil, assistant superintendent, spoke to the group, urging them not to do it and that they then took the youth deeper into the grounds and shot him to death.

Later, he said, students were gathered and paraded by the body.

Mrs. McKinney was the wife of Lieut. Charles H. McKinney, 23, of Spencer, Tenn., who recently went overseas as a bombardier. Her father, who was in Nashville conferring with W. O. Baird, State Institutions Commissioner, was first informed of the tragedy there and left immediately for Chattanooga, where his wife was taken for hospital treatment. Her condition was regarded as serious.

Nashville juvenile court records show that Scales was first arrested for disorderly conduct at the age of 9. When he was 12 he was charged with housebreaking and larceny and his record includes three cases of highway robbery and two of assault with a knife. He also had been accused of destroying property and purse snatching.

Negro Lynched After Woman Is Murdered

PIKEVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 23 [INS]—A Negro trusty at the Tennessee state training and agricultural school was shot to death in Pikeville today by an angry mob shortly after he is alleged to have slain one white women and seriously injured another.

Deputy Sheriff Frank Goforth identified the Negro as James Thomas Scales, who he said was convicted several months ago on a robbery charge.

CRUSHED GIRL'S HEAD

According to the deputy sheriff the Negro entered the home of H. E. Scott, superintendent of the training school, on a pretext of cleaning up. After gaining entrance he demanded that Mrs. Gwen McKeeney, 19, daughter of the superintendent and wife of an Army bombardier now overseas, give him the keys to an automobile. When she refused to do so the Negro crushed her head with a hammer and stabbed her with a butcher knife causing instant death, the sheriff said.

The sheriff said the Negro also attacked Mrs. Scott, wife of the superintendent, hitting her on the head with the hammer. Mrs. Scott is in a Chattanooga hospital in a serious condition.

Negro Youth Lynched For Admitted Slaying Of Two White Women

PIKEVILLE, Tenn.—(AP)—Within six hours after and less than 100 yards from where he admittedly slashed and battered two white women to death, James T. Scales, 'teen-age Negro trusty at a state reformatory near here, was shot to death Thursday by a number of men who removed him from the Pikeville Jail.

Victims of the bloody slayings were Mrs. Charles H. McKinnie, 19, killed outright, and her mother, Mrs. H. E. Scott, who died Thursday night in a Chattanooga hospital. Scott is superintendent of the institution, the State Training and Agricultural School for Negro Boys. He was away at the time of the tragedy.

Assistant Supt. W. S. Neil and Storekeeper Virgil Davis discovered the bloodied bodies of the women about 9 a.m. when they went to the Scott home on the school grounds. They judged the women had been slain around 6 a.m., shortly after Scales, as house boy, had reported there for work.

* * *

BY 11:30 THESE EVENTS had taken place in quick sequence:

Scales was returned to the school by two farmers who took him into custody as a suspected escape from the institution and without knowing of the slaying. Neil said the youth, 16, admitted the attacks.

Davis lodged him in the Bledsoe County Jail here, 16 miles from the school.

A group of men removed him from the jail, at which only two women were in attendance, and returned him to the school where they shot him dead after threatening to hang him.

Neil said he did not recognize any of the men in the group.

"There will be a full investigation of both the murders and the lynching," asserted State Highway Patrol Chief Lynn Bomar who took charge on orders of Gov. Prentice Cooper. The governor offered a reward of $500 for arrest and conviction of "those guilty in this lynching," first in the state in several years.

NEIL AND DAVIS found Mrs. McKinnie's body, her night clothes ripped away, lying in the back hallway of the Scott home, a few feet from her bedroom where the slayer had changed his bloody prison clothes for some belonging to her husband, overseas in the Army Air Forces.

She had been beaten about the head and stabbed near the heart. Nearby lay a bloodied butcher knife, a hammer and a double-bitted ax to which bits of flesh clung.

Close by was Mrs. Scott, her head battered, throat and arms slashed. Unconscious, she was removed to the Chattanooga hospital where she died 12 hours later. Neil said there was evidence that criminal attack of both women had been attempted.

Mrs. Ruth Douglas, cook and attendant at the Pikeville Jail, said she and her mother were alone when Davis brought Scales to the jail. Within an hour, she said, three men came in and represented themselves as having authority to return the Negro to the state school.

* * *

SHE REFUSED TO GIVE THEM THE KEYS, she said, but unlocked the cell door herself, and allowed them to take custody of Scales who made no resistance and said nothing.

Neil said he heard the men arrive and found them threatening to hang Scales from the limb of a big oak in front of one of the school dormitories. He remonstrated, he said, and the men tossed the rope aside. As he turned to speak to another school employe, several shots rang out and he dropped to the ground, fearful of being struck by stray bullets.

After Scales was slain instantly by several bullets in his head, members of the group urged other Negro inmates to view his body "as an example."

Juvenile Court records in Nashville, from where Scales was committed to the school, showed a series of charges against him starting when he was 9 years old. He was sent to the reformatory last October on a pistol robbery charge.

YOUTH LYNCHED IN TENNESSEE

PIKEVILLE, Tenn.—A 17-year-old youth, James T. Scales, a trusty at the State Training and Agricultural school reformatory, was shot to death November 23 by a mob of whites, which took him away from the jail after the daughter of the superintendent of the school had been killed and his wife had died of injuries. A $500 reward is being offered by the Governor of Tennessee for the arrest and conviction of the guilty mobsters.

Scales was taken from the county jail by a mob of a dozen or more men and dragged through the streets. After pleading frantically for his life, Scales attempted to break away, but was shot down before he had gone 20 feet. The shooting occurred on the grounds of the reformatory in which Scales had been an inmate.

The youth had been accused of killing, with a double-edged axe, Mrs. Gwendolyn McKinnie, 21, daughter of the superintendent of the reformatory, and her mother, Mrs. H. E. Scott, who was taken to a Chattanooga hospital, where she later died.

Reformatory Ax-Killer Lynched In Tennessee

Slayer of Superintendent's Daughter Falls Into Pikeville Mob's Hands By Ruse

From Wire Dispatches.

Pikeville, Tenn., Nov. 23.—A 17-year-old Negro, reformatory trusty, wielding a double-edged ax, today killed the young wife of an Army bombardier and critically injured the girl's mother, and, a few hours later, was himself shot to death by a member of a mob which took him from the Pikeville Jail.

The Negro, James T. Scales, was dragged through the reformatory grounds by the mob, bent on a lynching and carrying a rope. After pleading frantically for his life, the youth suddenly made a break but was shot down before he had run twenty feet.

Mob's Ruse Works.

His victims were Mrs. Charles H. McKinney, pretty daughter of the superintendent of the Tennessee State Training and Agriculture School for Negro Boys, and her mother, Mrs. H. E. Scott. Mrs. Scott was taken to a Chattanooga hospital, where she was reported in "very critical condition."

The mob secured his release from jail, where he had been taken by State highway patrolmen, after telling his jailers he was wanted back at the school.

'8 or 10' Make Up Mob.

The Negro was taken to the jail after the body of Mrs. McKinney and her unconscious mother were found at their residence. Superintendent Scott was in Nashville at the time.

Chief Tollett said he was informed that before he was shot Scales admitted his guilt.

Scales was quoted as saying he made the attack after he asked Mrs. Scott for the keys to her automobile and she refused them.

Chief Tollet estimated the size of the mob which took the Negro from the jail as "eight or ten" persons. He did not know whether their identity was disguised.

Scales Assigned as Houseboy.

Paul Treanor, bookkeeper at the reformatory, said that Scales, who recently had been assigned to work at the superintendent's house, went there this morning to build fires and cook.

Officials of the school found the one woman dead and the other unconscious when they went to investigate after Mrs. Scott, a matron, failed to report for work. Treanor said that it appeared they had been attacked with an ax, two butcher knives and a hammer.

Meanwhile Scales, who had left the grounds, was found and taken back to the school by a former employe who did not know about the murder.

Students Paraded Past Body.

Treanor said that preparations first were made to hang Scales, but that W. S. Neil, assistant superintendent, spoke to the group, uring them not to do it and that they then took the youth deeper into the grounds and shot him to death when he tried to escape.

Later, he said, the reformatory students were gathered and paraded past the body.

Mrs. McKinney was the wife of Lt. Charles H. McKinney, 23, of Spencer, Tenn., who had been stationed at Camp Victoria, Kan., until about three weeks ago when he went overseas as an Army bombardier and his wife returned to live with her family.

Highway Patrol Investigates.

Gov. Prentice Cooper, informed by Commissioner Baird of the lynchings, immediately ordered the State Highway Patrol to make an investigation.

Nashville Juvenile Court records show that Scales was first arrested for disorderly conduct at the age of 9. When he was 12, he was charged with housebreaking and larceny. His record includes three cases of highway robbery and two of assault with a knife. He also had been accused of destroying property, purse-snatching and housebreaking.

Tennessee Mob Lynches 17-Year-Old Negro Youth

PIKEVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 23.—A 17-year-old Negro youth who was accused of killing Mrs. Glen McKinney, daughter of the superintendent of the State Training and Agriculture school for colored boys, early this morning, was shot to death today by a lynch mob. The youth, James T. Scales, 17, was taken to the Pikeville jail shortly after Mrs. McKinney was slain. Jail authorities said a group came to the jail about six hours later and asked for the youth's release, saying he was wanted back at the school. He was released from his cell and taken back to the institution by the growing mob, which had a rope.

37a-1944

Washington

7180

Probe Colored Soldiers' Role In Attack On Italian Unit

New York, N. Y.

WASHINGTON, (NNPA) — Expressing complete mystification over the reported raid on the sleeping members of an Italian military service unit (former Italian prisoners) by Negro soldiers at Fort Lawton, near Seattle, Washington last week the War Department has advised that a thorough investigation is being made. 8-26-44

Prisoner Found Lynched

A short time following the fight, the body of one of the Italian soldiers was found hanging from a nearby tree, but a military statement refrained from placing responsibility for the hanging.

One phase of the investigation is to determine whether the hanging could have been a suicide.

Twenty-four of the Italians, who originally were brought to the United States as prisoners of war, were reported injured and hospitalized. A lesser number of the attackers, who were said to have been armed with rocks, were injured. The attackers were arrested. 8-26-44

All Used Same PX

According to the War Department, preliminary reports from the camp indicated there was no problem of segregation involved. The Negroes and the Italians all used the same PX and other camp facilities. The day before the outbreak, according to the post commander, everyone was getting along all right.

Rumors in Washington have assigned numerous reasons for the melee. Among them were resentment of Negroes to the part played by Italians in rape of Ethiopia—general resentment to prisoners of war being treated with more deference than American Negro soldiers by Army officials and townspeople—and the possibility that some Italians had picked up certain repulsive epithets from other Americans and used them toward Negroes in their presence.

37d (1) -1944

Northern

7135

Lynch Sheriff Renominated

Courier—Pittsburgh, Pa. 3-18-44

ALBANY, Ga. (ANP)—Interpreted by many as a slap at the Federal government, white voters Thursday renominated Sheriff Claude M. Screws, convicted with two other officers in the lynching of Robert Hall, 29-year-old mechanic. The nomination, under the Georgia white democratic primary is tantamount to election.

Screws is at liberty under $5,000 bond pending an appeal of his conviction to the United States Supreme court. The three-year prison sentence and $1,000 fine against the three officers have already been affirmed by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals sitting at New Orleans.

School of Lynched Boy Condemned as Inhuman

Peoples Voice 12-16-44 N.Y., N.Y.

KNOXVILLE—The Triads Civic Club of Knoxville in its weekly meeting Thursday, pulled no punches in its condemnation of the cruel and inhuman conditions tolerated at the state training and agricultural school for Negro delinquent boys at Pikeville high in the mountains and well nigh inaccessible Tyranny in its most cruel form practiced at the institution by the guards and over-lords (all of whom are white) was charged.

"I made an intensive investigation at the institution last August and told Superintendent Scott that conditions there were just like a powder keg and would blow up some day," said the Rev. D. Albert Jackson, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist church here, who led the discussion. "I saw a guard beat one of the boys over the head with a club knocking him to the ground, the boys ranging in ages from 7 to 18 years (208 of them) are very bitter and longing for revenge.

"I talked with James T. Scales, the lynch victim, who was mentally incompetent and had a definite murder complex and the superintendent invited disaster by making such a one a trusty and placing him in his home as cook."

Of the 208 inmates Rev. Jackson said only 21 were normal mentally, and one above normal. At least 40 had been committed two or more times to the institution. Six of the inmates were murderers, four accused of criminal assault, 49 of housebreaking.

State Senator Chandler was present throughout the two-hour session and said he would at personal expense reprint the resolutions and send a copy to the governor and every member of the legislature, which asks for an all-Negro personnel, trained in knowledge of sociology and the removal of the institution nearer to a metropolitan area and away from such a prejudiced surrounding.

After digging coal in a state owned mine for eight hours each day, the only recreation available to the boys is matching pennies or fighting among themselves, which a highly prejudiced guard, whose intelligence is on a low level, encourages.

Two Styles of Lynching

P.M. N.Y., N.Y. 12-2-44

IN TENNESSEE last week a mob took a 17-year-old Negro reform school youth out of jail, shot him, and then forced the other Negro youths at the institution to parade before his dead body. This was rural lynching—old style.

In Philadelphia several days earlier a police officer stepped into an ordinary street brawl, knocked a Negro truck-driver to the ground, and as he slowly tried to get up, shot him point-blank and left him there to die. This was urban lynching—new style. 12-2-44

The newspapers in Tennessee scream that the Negro lad committed a horrible murder—although there is only the questionable suspicion that he is guilty, and the mob gave no opportunity for a trial. The newspapers in Philadelphia shout that the Negro man was a dangerous "bandit"—although he has not even been accused of anything worse than getting into a street fight.

The courts in Tennessee will probably try to whitewash the mob-lynchers—if they are ever arrested. The courts in Philadelphia—with the help of a Negro magistrate!—have already done a neat whitewash job on the policeman-lyncher.

These are no isolated incidents. The Tennessee lynching is of a piece with the increasing acts of violence and oppression by a Bourbon South trying desperately to fight off the growing power of democracy. The Philadelphia lynching is right in line with the increasing police brutality in that and other large industrial cities—likewise reflecting reaction against the growing participation and influence of Negroes in the civic and political life of the community. 12-2-44

Both of these lynchings—rural-old and urban-new—are symptoms of still more serious trouble to come. Let there be no "quieting down" on either of these cases. Unless an aroused public fights both of them through to a just conclusion, we are letting ourselves in for just that much more trouble ahead.

37d1 -1944

7137

Facts Sometimes Overlooked

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga.

The Southern Frontier, in its issue of January, lists some interesting sidelights on lynching for 1943. It gives in the first place, the number of actual lynchings occurring over a five-year period and then lists the number of prevented lynchings for each of the five years. Here are the figures:

In 1939, there were 3 actual lynchings and 25 prevented lynchings; 1940, 5 actual lynchings, 22 prevented lynchings; in 1941, there were 4 actual and 22 prevented lynchings; 1942, there were 5 lynchings and 15 prevented lynchings, and in 1943, there were 3 lynchings and 11 prevented lynchings. 3-1-44

The main point to which we call attention is the large number of prevented lynchings, which could have occurred, save for the speedy and determined efforts on the part of law-enforcing officers in the several communities. Of course as the Frontier pointed out, and we think correctly, all of the credit should not be given to a sudden change of heart on the part of lynchers, nor to the speedy efforts on the part of local law-enforcement agencies. But rather it should be given to a large degree to the work of the Justice department, which has interpreted the status of an officer of the law as an agent of the state which has certain obligations to the citizen placed upon it by the Constitution. Sheriffs, deputies, county policemen have suddenly been aroused to their responsibilities by Federal Grand Juries. Notable examples of this may be found in the classic charge made to the Federal Grand Juries by Judge Bascom Deaver at Albany, Georgia last October in the case of Sheriff M. Claude Screws of Baker County and his deputies, who were each fined $1,000 and sentenced to three years in the Federal penitentiary.

Three Mob Victims Reported In '43

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga. 1-1-44

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. (SNS) — Three persons were lynched in 1943, according to information compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute and released by President F. D. Patterson.

This is two less than the number 5 for the year 1942, one less than the number four for the year 1941, and two less than the number 5 for 1940. 1-1-44

One of the persons lynched was beaten and clubbed to death by a sheriff and other police officers; one was taken from a jail and shot to death by a mob of four masked men; and one, a soldier, was shot to death by a mob of farmers as he tried to escape from a farm house. All persons lynched were Negroes. Offenses charged were resisting arrest, killing a white man in a robbery attempt and insulting white women over the telephone. Lynchings occurred in Georgia, Florida and Illinois. 1-1-44

The compilation shows that there were nine reports of instances in which officers of the law in six southern states acted to prevent lynchings, and one report of an instance in which white and colored passengers on a train in New Jersey restrained a mob of sailors. In one cases, police officers prevented the a mob and placed him in jail; in six cases, police officers prevented the mobs from entering the jail; in six cases the police augumetned the guards or removed the prisoners to other jails. A total of 11 persons—one white man (a chief of police), nine Negro men and one Negro woman—were thus saved from mob violence by the action of police officers and train passengers.

Three Lynchings In '43; Police Protection Cited

Journal & Guide - Norfolk, Va.

1-8-44

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—A total of three persons, all Negroes were lynched in 1943 with Florida, Georgia, and Illinois carrying the scar of one each, according to the information compiled in the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research.

The reports said that one victim was beaten and clubbed to death by a sheriff and other police officers; one taken from a jail and shot to death by four masked men, and the third a soldier, shot to death by a mob of farmers as he tried to escape from a farm house.

The offenses reported charged in the lynchings were resisting arrest, killing a white woman in a robbery attempt, and insulting a white woman over the telephone.

The records also showed that there were nine reports of instances in which officers of the law in six southern states acted to prevent lynchings, and of one instance when the white and colored passengers on a train in New Jersey restrained a mob of sailors.

POLICE RESCUE VICTIM

In another case, police rescued a victim from a mob and placed him in jail; in two cases, officers prevented the would-be-lynchers from entering the jail, and in six cases, police augmented the guards or removed the prisoners to other jails. 1-8-44

Thus, a total of 11 persons, one white chief of police, nine Negro men, and one Negro woman, were saved from mob violence by intervening action.

The record of three lynchings for '43 is to be compared with the records of five for '42, four for '41 and five for '40.

Lynchings Again

People's News [PV—Pg. 3] This week's news took place in Mississippi last March but carries accounts of a lynching which This is a grim reminder of the deadly menace of Bourbon oppression which must be uprooted from the South but which has just been discovered. 8-26-44

The current political ferment among Negroes and the growing labor and progressive movement which threatens to undermine the political control of the reactionary over-lords are evidence of a New Reconstruction now in process of being built. In time, it will emerge into dominance, but only through the bitterest struggle against the forces who have vested interests in the continued oppression of the southern masses.

Say lynching has dropped to new low

Tribune — Los Angeles, Calif.

7-6-44

ATLANTA, Ga.—The number of lynchings in the South has been decreasing for some years; now—even amid wartime stresses—it almost has reached the vanishing point, it was asserted here last week by a white news agency.

So far this year there has been only one lynching, it was claimed. Last year there were three. In 1942 there were five; in 1941, four; in 1940, five, according to the agency report, which continued:

"The number of lynchings has reached this low point at a time of large scale urban migration, housing problems, and labor tensions — factors which ordinarily would tend to increase racial conflict.

"Guy B. Johnson of Atlanta, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, believes the downward drift of the lynching curve for the last 50 years has been 'perhaps inevitable . . . quite aside from the organized efforts to combat lynchings.'

"It is a trend, he adds, comparable to the trend toward greater rights for women, labor, etc., and is indicative of a maturing of American culture.

"Of Federal anti-lynch legislation, he says, 'I believe that the threat of a Federal anti-lynching law has helped to reduce lynching and that the threat is actually more potent than the law itself would be'."

Dewey Never Attended Lynching, D. C. Editor Answers S. C. Governor

Ifo for Me — Houston, Texas.

7-22-44

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—Reminding Gov. Olin D. Johnson of South Carolina that neither Dewey nor Roosevelt ever attended a lynching party, Alexander Barnes, Eastern vice-president of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association and co-publisher of the Washington Tribune answered the bold slur of the Governor's against Dewey for having attended a "Negro drinking party" in a telegram last week.

Mr. Barnes wired the S. C. governor that "It might be true that Roosevelt has never taken a drink with a Negro. It is also true that neither the President nor Governor Dewey ever attended a lynching party. Both Hitler and Tojo have a record of officials of your state attending such a party." 7-22-44

Gov. Johnston, in a broadcast at Anderson, S. C., last week made the remark about Dewey. Mr. Barnes says his remarks are causing much concern among Negroes throughout the country and will serve to aid in bringing Negroes back into the Republican fold. He points out that there are quite a few Negroes who have not forgotten that Senator "Cotton Ed" Smith, from Gov. Johnston's state, walked out of a Democratic convention when a Negro preacher was called on to pray. He said the fact that Rev. J. L. Horace, Illinois minister, was received most cordially when he prayed at the recent Republican convention in Chicago tends to show that the Negro is tired of the leadership which the Democratic party is giving the coun-

BARBARISM HERE

Guardian—Boston, Mass.

The horrible lynching and mutilation of an aged Christian minister is revealed in an affidavit by the son of the victim. None of the justifications commonly set forth in behalf of lynchers is offered in this instance. The murdered man owned a farm which was coveted by whites because of a reported discovery of oil on the premises. In an effort to protect his rights the owner had sought the advice of a lawyer. This fact seems to have aroused the covetous whites to a high pitch of anger. Deliberately they planned to make way with the owner. To get possession of the rich farm they killed the old man and ran his son off the place. 8-26-44

The scene of the mob murder is in Mississippi, Congressman Rankin's domaine. Thus the lynching was committed in the area from which Representatives and Senators are elected term after term by a small proportion of votes. Through the seniority rule they become heads of powerful Congressional committees; they make laws to govern the rest of the country but they shake their fists in the faces of Northern and Western members, vociferously assert states rights and white supremacy and defy outsiders to interfere with their monopoly of lynching although its disgrace is smeared over the entire nation. The pity of it all is not just the poverty, ignorance and self-isolation of the South: it is the nation's cowardly acceptance of its shame through a prolonged failure to make lynching a Federal crime, punishable in Federal courts.

While civilization is suffering hard knocks in the global war, every means should be taken to protect and advance civilizing processes here at home. Germans have tortured and massacred millions of Jewish civilians. We have grown so callous that Germany is no longer openly denounced as barbarous. There may be little danger that our Northern and Westren communities will underrate sacredness of human life, though it is made humiliatingly clear to all the world that murder is not considered a crime in the South. Few Southern leaders will be outspoken in condemnation of the acts of the Mississippi mob. But had the outrage occurred in Japan, newspaper headlines would scream about the savagery of the little brown Nipponese! As it is, since the fiendish wickedness took place in the United States which we like to call civilized, the Japs no doubt are already using it as valuable material for broadcasts to South America and through the Orient. Certainly the nation owes it to itself to stop mob murders and all other forms of race-ratred if there is an honest intent to seek amicable relations with South Americans. Both Republicans and Democrats should muster up courage and pass a Federal anti-lynching bill. It is true lynchings have declined, but the lynching impulse will linger.

NAZIS LYNCH SIX AMERICANS

Afro American—Baltimore, Md.

Reports from Sweden last week indicated that enraged farmers beat to death six white airmen shot down in raids over Germany. 6-10-44

Villagers near Berlin are quoted as saying, "We are only waiting for one of those accursed American flyers to crash around these parts. We would stone the flyer to death. We have seen how they machine-gunned women and children."

U.S. reactions to German lynchings were blazing. PM said the "mask of Fascist brutality is torn off. Let us confront that sight with all our anger and all our hate."

The Philadelphia Inquirer threatened to seek out and punish at the end of the war the Nazis who lynch our American boys.

A Southern Army officer was surprised to find he could not excite colored soldiers by his lecture on the outrageous Nazi lynchings of U.S. soldiers. Unable to stand it longer, he inquired after class and was told about the lynchings at home.

Lynchings in Southern States have declined in recent years due to the fear of a Federal anti-lynching law.

The fact is that in the past twenty years the average has been 25 a year, and no single year passes without American mobs going on a rampage, hanging, burning and killing colored victims.

In 1919 the number was 77; 1926—30; 1933—33; 1941—5; 1942—5; year 1943—4.

White mobs lynched these colored people for such offenses (?) as trying to vote or refusing to call a white man "mister."

In Mississippi, Georgia, Texas, or South Carolina, U.S.A., you don't have to shoot women and children to be lynched, you merely take an active part in politics, walk down the street with a white woman friend, or ride in a Pullman car and refuse to get off. 6-10-44

Mob violence is wicked and indefensible, but we agree with the soldiers—why get excited about lynchings of our flyers in Germany or in Japan?

Why shoot off our mouths about punishing German lynchers when we don't punish lynchers in Dixie?

Aren't our enemies merely copying good (?) old U.S. practices and customs? Didn't we teach them how?

Instead of blowing our top over the German use of U.S. mob law, we ought to shut up and search our own souls.

We ought to resolve to make examples of the next American mob that lynches a colored man if we have to pass a Federal anti-lynching law to do it.

Then, and not until we put our own house in order should we talk above a whisper about brutalities in Germany and Japan.

STILL NEED FOR ANTI-LYNCH LAW

Afro American

When you think there is no need of such a Federal antilynching bill as the G.O.P. platform mentions, there comes out of the South a story such as that of the mob murder of the Rev. Isaac Simmons, suppressed since last March.

The minister's crime was that he hired a lawyer to safeguard his title to his 220-acre Louisiana farm and home where whites suspected there was oil. Baltimore, Md.

Where a State is indifferent to the protection of citizens, the Federal Government must be authorized to step in.

Two Persons Lynched in Past Year

Savannah Tribune

ONE OF THEM A 65 YR. OLD MINISTER

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 27—According to information compiled in the department of records and research, there were two persons lynched in 1944. This is is one less than the number 3 lynched for the year of 1943, 3 less than the number 5 for the year 1942, 2 less than the number 4 for the year 1941, and 3 less than the number 5 for the year of 1940. 2-28-44

One of the persons lynched was a 65 year old minister-farmer who was taken about a mile from his home and shot to death by a mob; the other, a 17 year old trustee of the Tennessee State Training and Agricultural cshool (a reformatory) was taken from jail and shot to death by a mob.

Both persons lynched were Negroes. The offences charged were: hiring a lawyer to safeguard his title to a debt free farm through which there was possibility that an oil vein ran, 1; murderin wife and daughter of the superintendent of the reformatory, 1.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each are as follows: Mississippi, 1; Tennessee, 1.

Two Lynched During 1944

Atlanta Daily World 2-28-44

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research here, lynchings for the year 1944 totaled two. This is one less than the number three for the year 1943, three less than the number five for the year 1942, two less than the number four for the year 1941, and three less than the number five for the year 1940.

One of the persons lynched was a 65-year-old minister-farmer who was taken about a mile from his home and shot to death by a mob of whites in Miss. The other was a 17-year-old trusty at the Tennessee State Training and Agricultural School, (reformatory), who was taken from jail and shot to death by another mob of whites. Both were Negroes.

The offense charged against the older man was hiring a lawyer to safeguard his title to debt-free farm through which there was possibilty that an oil vein ran, and the charge against the younger man was that of murdering the wife and daughter of the superintendent of the reformatroy.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each are Miss., where the older man was slain, and Tennessee where the youth was killed.

The information relative to the lynchings was sent out from Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute.

37b-1944

Slain After Being Freed On Charge

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga.
8-27-44

7138

BRENHAM, Tex. — (ANP) — Was James Rogers, 35, secretly lynched?

That unanswered question has rocked this community since his bullet ridden body was found on Tuesday on a lonely country road near old Washington community, about 29 miles from Prairie View.

Rogers had been charged with adultery with a white girl. Placed in jail, he disappeared soon after his release and was not heard from until his dead body was discovered.

Still Too Many

Atlanta Daily World Ga.

The annual report of the Department of Research and Records at Tuskegee Institute, made public this week, records two lynchings in the country for the year. "This is one less than the number three in 1943," the report states, "three less than the number five for 1942, two less than the number four in 1941, and three less than the number five for 1940."

12-29-44

Ostensibly, these figures reveal a steadily declining trend in the number of lynchings in recent years. But practically, it is difficult to estimate the actual number of unreported lynchings in any given year since in many parts of the rural South there is still no well-established method of determining such lynchings. The logic in this position is borne out in the case of Rev. Isaac Simmons, 65-year-old Mississippi minister-farmer, whose death would never have been known probably, but for the fact that his 48-year-old surviving son, who escaped the lynchers and fled to New Orleans, broke the news to an unsuspecting public. Even then the State's interest in the prosecution ended in a perfunctory indictment against only one of the perpetrators, in the face of abudant evidence gathered and turned over by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

12-29-44

On the other hand, we may take comfort in the fact that the trend indicates a healthy and encouraging sentiment against the evil practice, as well as a vigorous determination on the part of a growing number of southern newspapers and editors to smite this scourge in our body politic with all the moral courage at their command. For as Dr. George Fort Milton, himself a southerner, has so wisely observed: "Until America can discover and apply means to end these relapses to the law of the jungle, we have no assurance that ordered society will at any moment be overthrown by the blind passion of a potentially ever-present mob."

Two Lynched During 1944

Memphis World Tenn.

12-29-44

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research here, lynchings for the year 1944 totaled two. This is one less than the number three for the year 1943, three less than the number five for the year 1942, two less than the number four for the year 1941 and three less than the number five for the year 1940.

One of the persons lynched was a 65-year-old minister-farmer who was taken about a mile from his home and shot to death by a mob of whites in Miss. The other was a 17-year-old truant at the Tennessee State Training and Agricultural School (reformatory), who was taken from jail and shot to death by another mob of whites. Both were Negroes.

The offense charged against the older man was hiring a lawyer to safeguard his title to debt-free farm through which there was possibility that an oil vein ran, and the charge against the younger man was that of murdering the wife and daughter of the superintendent of the reformatroy.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each are Miss., where the older man was slain, and Tennessee where the youth was killed.

The information relative to the lynchings was sent out from Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute.

Tuskegee Reports Two Lynchings In Nation For 1944

Tenn.

Nashville Globe

Tuskegee Institute—President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute has released to the press that institution's score on United States lynchings for the year of 1944, which shows there were two mob murders, both of which occurred in the South, and in poll tax states thereof.

12-29-44

The race for lynching "honors" this year ended in a dead heat between Mississippi and Tennessee, each of which got one victim. Mississippi lynchers snuffed out the life of a 65-year old colored preacher and farmer who was taken about a mile from his home and shot to death. He had hired a lawyer to safeguard his title to a piece of land he owned, free of debt but which white neighbors sought to take from him by tricky means. It was believed there was an oil vein on the land. The alleged leaders of the mob were arrested and one of them was tried and set free. The District Attorney then threw up his hands on the other alleged mobbists, and it was reported he felt he would not be able to secure any convictions.

The Tennessee lynching was that of 17-year old James Scales, grandson of the well known Preston Scales, undertaker and churchman of Murfreesboro, Tenn. Young Scales was shot to death on the grounds of the Reform School at Pikeville. He had been charged with murdering the wife and daughter of the superintendent of the institution.

12-29-44

All that the researchers at Tuskegee know about this case is what they have read in the newspapers. It is believed, that in the Scales lynching the whole truth has not been given to the public and responsibility for the delay is attributed to Gov. Prentice Cooper, who has had both the murders and the lynching investigated and appears to be studying the facts developed by his Highway Patrol, members of which he sent to the scene of the crimes as soon as they were reported to him.

"Mississippi Justice"

The Whip — Miami Fla.

There is increasing doubt in the minds of all citizens of color below the Mason and Dixon line as to just what the word "Justice" means to the whites who sit as jury men at the trials of other white men who are being tried for beating, killing or lynching a Negro. The other day in Liberty, Mississippi, a jury of white men acquitted Noble Rider, alleged ringleader and murderer of Isaac Simmons, aged Negro minister-farmer. The case was as simple as this for the jury to decide upon: The minister's son who was present at the slaying testified at the trial and in a signed affidavit told of the revolting crime, "shooting the defenseless man in the back and then cutting his tongue out." The white man, Noble Rider accused of the crime, simply said he didn't commit the crime and had the necessary witnesses to substantiate his defense, whereupon the jury apparently took his word against that of a Negro, acquitting the accused murderer.

11-25-44

The action of this jury brings to mind the action of another Mississippi jury who freed several alleged lynchers of two juveniles a couple of years back. It also reminds us of the two cases in Texas where the Negro defendants who were on trial were slain in the courtroom by white men and nothing was done about it. Closer home it reminds us that the trials of two white men indicted for slaying a Negro poultry dealer and a youthful Negro peddler, respectively, have not been brought to trial yet though the crimes were committed months ago.

Such a flagrant disregard of justice by whites serves only to nauseate and infuriate a minority whom they are trying to impress that they are a superior people. The cowardly actions of shooting defenseless Negroes in the back, or cutting his tongue out, is just as revolting as the Japs doing the same thing to the soldiers of the Allied Nations. However, such things are to be expected in a war but the action of a Mississippi jury "sanctioning" the shooting of a man in the back and the cutting out of his tongue is not expected of civilization based on Mississippi "white supremacy."

THE MISSISSIPPI CASE

Savannah Tribune 11-16-44

There has hardly been a more brazen disregard of human rights than the case of the murdering of Isaac Simmons, an inoffensive old Negro minister in Mississippi, a few months ago. The history of the case reveals that the old man owned some desirable property which certain white men wanted. The old man had been so annoyed by them that he sought the assistance of a lawyer to protect him in his ownership of the property. The news that he had sought a lawyer exasperated the white men. They took the man and his son out on a road, and heedless of their pleading, mercilessly beat them, and shot the old man. The son was told to leave the place, and to keep his mouth shut under threat of death. The local authority did nothing to bring the men, six of them, to justice. Through the intercession of the FBI, the six men, definitely identified by the son, were brought to trial. The leader was acquitted by the court on the plea of the defense that the killing was done "in defense of white supremacy." The story is told because it was not carried in the white papers and because there are many people who do not believe that such a thing ever happens. Many of our friends, and many lovers of fairplay and justice, sometimes question the wisdom of publishing such stories, but we believe it is one way to inform the public of what travail Negroes experience, and why it is they complain of the treatment they receive at the hands of the agencies in which they should find

7136

Ga.

11-16-44

of white men to rationalize their denial of sources, even in the rights of citizenship to him. He sees his progress in his country has had en- couragement from many sou- the South, but there is no sense in denying it as substituting violence and intimidation the fact that the restrictions, discrimina- instead of the Constitution and the Bill of tions and many imposed inadequacies hurt Rights as the gauge of his citizenship.

This case is just one instance of the mis- carriage of justice which so sorely tries the Negro's faith in our democracy. He is not unmindful of his contribution to the alarm and misgiving tion to revive the Ku Klux Klan. He knows wealth and economy, especially of the what it means to him. He doesn't see the South, nor is he unmindful of the fact that necessity for it. He sees in it the purpose

A DIXIE NEWSPAPER CONDONES LYNCHING

Review-Courier, Pitts.

As the end of the 1944 approaches, some citizens have begun premature celebrations over the fact that only two lynchings occurred in the entire year, the lowest number since records were begun on the number of annual mob murders. 12-23-44

There is due cause for celebration but with tongue in cheek. For one thing the Dixie henchmen of rope and faggot rule have adopted a silence technique in which victims are strung up with a minimum of conventional hilarity and publicity. There have been several cases in which Negroes were just spirited out of sight and never heard from again. In others very few whites participate in the killing, which allows the murder to be filed away under homicide rather than lynching.

But another, and perhaps even more important ill omen is the failure of all efforts to enact into Federal law an outright measure making lynching a crime punishable in the U. S. courts. The threat of such a law has curbed the actual number of such crimes but has not curbed the lynch spirit which still prevails in too many communities in the South.

A Federal law is needed today more than ever on what we hope is the eve of the return of millions of soldiers to their homes from the war fronts. The coming era is bound to see turbulent times with the threat of violence in the air. Dixie will again be determined to keep the Negro in his place.

Now, when tempers are not overheated, is the time to enact a Federal anti-lynching law and put a damper on mob violence before it gets started. The danger of the lynch spirit can be seen in a cynical invitation to let lynchers have their way published in an editorial in the Chattanooga News-Free Press after the recent mob slaying of 17-year-old James Scales in Pikeville, Tenn. Said the newspaper: "Nine out of ten physically able men would have been party to the same deed had they been in the immediate area where the crime was committed." 12-25-44

As long as the so-called respectable men of the South, the educated publishers of organs of public opinion, condone lynching, the need for a Federal law to curb this national shame is a "must."

The new Congress promises to be one of the most liberal in President Roosevelt's term of office. Now is the time for the organization of a smashing campaign to put this legislation over. Write your congressman today and urge his support to the anti-lynching bill in the coming session of Congress.

Tennesse Lynches a Boy

Heading the list was the lynching o of a 17-year-old boy by a mob of whites at Pikesville, Tenn.

The youth was accused of attacking and killing the daughter of the white superintendent of the State Training School for Colored Boys.

What happened between the colored boy and the older white gril we will never know. They are both dead, The mob's shooting of the boy makes us suspect that it did not want the facts to become public.

Congress hasn't given us a Federal antilynching law yet but now and again Tennessee shows signs of civilization. It might rise up and punish this mob.

We have often wondered why Southern States like Tennessee, Maryland and many another jim crow colored citizens into separate State institutions and th then appoint white persons to head them.

Afro-American — Baltimore, Md. 12-2-44

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3 Lynchings, 11 Prevented

Constitution-Atlanta, Ga. 2-13-44

Tuskegee Institute reports three cases of lynchings in 1943 and states that in one other year only, 1939, has the number of lynchings been as low as three. There were five in 1942.

While it is gratifying to note that mob violence is coming under control, it is distressing to note that it still exists. There were 11 lynchings attempted but prevented in 1943 as against 15 prevented in 1942.

One of last year's lynchings was in Illinois, another in Florida and one in Georgia. There has been a conviction in the Georgia case. It was one of unusual, depraved cruelty.

Part of the credit must go to a steadily mounting public opinion, but it is not possible to overlook the fact that the small portion of sheriffs and peace officers who were not too attentive to their duty, have been aroused to duty by the fact that the federal courts have held that state governments, under the Constitution, must protect the citizens of their states.

37d2

Tuskegee Lists 3 Lynchings In U. S. Last Year

Advertiser-Montgomery, Ala. 1-1-44

One Each Reported In Illinois, Florida And Georgia

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Dec. 31.—Three persons were lynched in the United States in 1943, according to statistics released today by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the institute, in announcing the findings of the department, said the lynchings were two less than occurred in 1942, one less than the number in 1941 and two less than in 1940.

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Of the three persons lynched in 1943, one was clubbed to death by a sheriff and other police officers, one was taken from a jail and shot to death by four masked men and another, a soldier, was shot to death by farmers as he tried to escape from a farm house. All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Resisting arrest; killing a white man in a robbery attempt, and insulting a white woman by telephone. The States in which the lynchings occurred were: Florida, Georgia and Illinois. 1-1-44

Said the report: "There were nine reports of instances in which officers of the law in six Southern States acted to prevent lynchings, and one report of an instance in which white and colored passengers on a train in New Jersey restrained a mob of sailors. In one case, police rescued a person from a mob and placed him in jail; in two cases, police officers prevented the mobs from entering the jail; in six cases, the police augmented the guards or removed the prisoners to other jails. A total of 11 persons—one white man (a chief of police), nine negro men and one negro woman—were thus saved from mob violence by the action of police officers and train passengers."

THREE PERSONS LYNCHED IN 1943

Bham. News, Ala. 1/4/44

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31—(AP)—Three persons, all Negroes, were lynched in 1943, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, announced Friday in his annual report on lynchings.

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Patterson's report said the offenses charged were resisting arrest, killing a wihte man in a robbery attempt and insulting white women over the telephone.

One lynching occurred in Florida, one in Georgia and one in Illinois, the annual Tuskegee report added.

"One of the persons lynched was beaten and clubbed to death by a sheriff and other police officers; one was taken from a jail and shot to death by a mob of four masked men, and one, a soldier, was shot to death by a mob of farmers as he tried to escape from a farm house," the report asserted.

Five persons were lynched in 1942, four in 1941 and five in 1940, the announcement continued, adding:

"There were nine reports of instances in which officers of the law in six Southern states acted to prevent lynchings, and one report of an instance in which white and colored passengers on a train in New Jersey restrained a mob of sailors. In one case, police rescued a person from a mob and placed him in jail; in two cases, police officers prevented the mobs from entering the jail; in six cases, the police augmented the guards or removed the prisoners to other jails.

A total of 11 persons—one white man (a chief of police), nine Negro men, and one Negro woman—were thus saved from mob violence by the action of police officers and train passengers."

Lynchings In 1943

Only once before in the history of lynching records were there so few lynchings in this country as there were in 1943, when three persons met such deaths, according to Tuskegee Institute's records. The other year was in 1939, when again there were only three lynchings. Age-Herald-B'ham, Ala.

Lynchings have been steadily declining in America! The average for the last five years, from 1939 to 1943, inclusive, was only four lynchings. The average for the previous five, from 1934 to 1939 was 11. For the five years before that, 1929 to 1933, the average was 16. From 1924 to 1928, the average was 18. The years following World War 1, from 1919 to 1923, were among the worst in recent decades, the average being 60. But even that figure was far better than the one for the first five years of the century, 1900 to 1904, inclusive, when an average of 105 lynchings was recorded. 1-4-44

The continued improvement in the lynching record, as compiled by Tuskegee Institute, throws additional doubt upon the need for federal legislation against lynching. As long as the states and local communities are doing the job indicated, federal legislation, always of doubtful value against crimes of local nature, is very questionable.

A better perspective of the public attitude toward lynchings is contained in the Tuskegee Institute report that during 1943 there were 11 instances in which persons were saved from mob violence by action of police officers or bystanders. Nine of these instances occurred in the South. 1-4-44

With public opinion so firmly set against lynchings, the hope for further reduction of such crimes should continue to grow.

LYNCHINGS IN 1943

Times-Herald-Norfolk, Va.

Lynching has sometimes been called "a peculiarly American institution." Certainly the shame of it lingers on our records. We cannot forget that crimes of this sort between 1882 and 1903 averaged 152 a year. 1-24-44

Happily, that chapter of history seems to be closing. Last year's lynching total was down to three as against five in 1942. More significant still is the fact that firm action of officers of the law prevented nine threatened lynchings, while private citizens, white and colored, who joined to fight off a mob, stopped a tenth. America is plainly determined to disown and abolish this hideous practice. 1-30-44

But the spirit of lynching has only been scotched. It still perpetrates crimes of hoodlumism and race hatred. Education against it cannot afford to relax.

Lynchings, 1943

Post-Washington, D.C.

One hopeful note on life in the United States is the report from Tuskegee Institute showing a decided drop in lynchings in 1943. Only three persons were murdered by mobs last year, compared with five in 1942, four in 1941 and five in 1940. That is a notable improvement. It is a national disgrace, of course, that any accused citizen was put to death without the benefit of a trial. Every thoughtful citizen must blush with shame for this vestige of barbarism at a time when we are engaged in a world war for democracy and decency. Yet the record of last year indicates that some States are making encouraging progress in clearing their records of this blot. 1-4-44

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On the face of the current report special congratulations are due to Mississippi, which has often in the past been foremost among the States in which lynchings occur. In 1942 Mississippi had three lynchings in a week. In 1943 its slate remained clean. For that matter none of the States which permitted mob murders within their borders in 1942 is on the black list just issued. The offending States in 1943 were Florida, Georgia and Illinois. One might draw from this fact the hopeful deduction that the scorn heaped upon the lynching States last year spurred their law-enforcement officials to greater vigilance in protecting the rights of citizens to a fair trial.

There is, however, no ground for complacency in this report, particularly in view of the fact that it does not touch the slaying of innocent people in race riots. Detroit's orgy of last summer cost the lives of more people than have been lynched in the South in several years. This and other outbreaks of racial feeling and the lynching in Illinois very strongly indicate that the problem of

peculiarly American institution." Certainly the shame of it lingers on our records. We cannot forget that crimes of this sort between 1882 and 1903 averaged 152 a year.

Happily, that chapter of history seems to be closing. Last year's lynching total was down to three as against five in 1942. More significant still is the fact that firm action of officers of the law prevented nine threatened lynchings, while private citizens, white and colored, who joined to fight off a mob, stopped a tenth. America is plainly determined to disown and abolish this hideous practice.

But the spirit of lynching has only been scotched. It still perpetrates crimes of hoodlumism and race hatred. Education against it cannot afford to relax.

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OTHER PAPERS SAY

Defender-Chicago, Ill.

LYNCHINGS IN 1943

(From New York Times)

Lynching has sometimes been called "a peculiarly American institution." Certainly the shame of it lingers on our records. We cannot forget that crimes of this sort between 1882

News-Birmingham-Ala. 1-4-44

LYNCHINGS IN 1943

Lynching has sometimes been called a peculiarly American institution." Certainly the shame of it lingers on our records. We cannot forget that crimes of this sort between 1882

Mob Violence At Pikeville Is New Disgrace For Tennessee's Citizenship

Knoxville Journal - Knoxville, Tenn.

Regret will be felt throughout Tennessee because of the fact that a mob from the environs of Pikeville night before last shot to death a seventeen-year-old Negro who is reported to have admitted killing the daughter and injuring the wife of the reformatory superintendent there. 11-24-

There is of course no question about the youth's deserving a death penalty, if he was guilty as reported, but he deserved it from a jury. There is also no doubt but what the persons who constituted themselves a mob to flout the processes of law likewise deserve to be made to pay the penalty for their action.

Every instance of mob violence in the record of this or any other state is a disgraceful refutation of the claim all of us make from time to time that this is a country governed by laws. Every instance of the law being taken into the hands of a mob comprises a threat to the rights of all of us as free men.

The old adage to the effect that "two wrongs do not make a right" was never truer than in such a case as this. Nor is the aspect of this gun-lynching improved by the unlikelihood of any effective action upon the part of the law enforcement of the county concerned to punish those who added to the barbarity of the Negro youth's crimes their own defiance of the law.

LYNCHING PROBLEM IS NOT BEATEN

Informer - Houston, Tex.

". . . There may be several laws we need in Federal Statute books, but an anti-lynching law certainly is not one of them." This is one of the several statements that appeared in an editorial comment in (you guessed it) the Houston Post for October 26, 1944. Writing under the caption of "Lynching Problem Beaten", the editor of the Post expressed his gratitude to the southerners in Congress for their success in having proposed anti-lynching legislation shelved. He supports his stand on anti-lynching legislation by this type of reasoning (?)—"We have yet to pass a law that will stop murder, arson, rape, thievery, or even automobile speeding." By this type of deduction we would be led to regard existing laws covering murder, arson should be repealed or would we?

Southern newspapers, clergymen and schools are given credit by the Post's editor for the noticeable decline in the number of lynchings in the United States from year to year. The South, he says, is able to handle its own affairs.

Poises Serious Question

The editorial under discussion indicates that there are those among the whites who are thinking about the evil, barbarous and illegal despite the absence of anti-lynching legislation, practice of lynching. Not all of the whites are viewing the problem in the same light as Negroes are viewing it. This fact is borne out by the Post's position. And, of course, we have fresh evidence almost each quarter of the calendar year that there are those whites in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and other states in the South who are not thinking of lynching quite in the same terms that Negroes and proponents of anti-lynching legislation are thinking about it. This state of affairs poises the question of how convincing those congressmen who are fighting the passage of anti-lynching measures can make themselves with the argument that the South has beaten lynching, when, in reality it has not beaten it at all.

Reports Not Carried In White Press

Some lynchings and killings and severe beatings of Negroes that fall under the same principle that lynching fall under, are never reported in the southern white press. Specific instances are the individual cases of Negro men who were beaten in Brookshire and the area of New Waverly, Tex-as respectively. Neither of these was carried by the Houston Post, for instance. In some cases the local authorities in places where lynchings and killings take place, succeed in keeping accounts from daily papers, and in other cases, the papers just do not seem to carry reports of killings of which, from all evidence, they have been apprised.

The number of lynchings in the South are by no means "negligible", and we do need anti-lynching legislation.

Decline In Lynchings Is Recorded For Year

News Age Herald - Birmingham, Ala.

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP) — A decline in lynchings during 1944 was reported Thursday by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute.

12-31-44

Basing his statement on information compiled by the Department of Records and Research, Dr. Patterson said in his annual report on the subject and that two persons were lynched during the past year.

The report added:

"This is one less than the number three for the year 1943; three less than the number five for the year 1942; two less than the number four for the year 1941; and three less than the number five for the year 1940.

"One of the persons lynched was a 65-year-old minister-farmer who was taken about a mile from his home and shot to death by a mob; the other, a 17-year-old trusty at the Tennessee State Training and Agricultural School (a reformatory) was taken from jail and shot to death by a mob.

"Both persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Hiring a lawyer to safeguard his title to a debt-free farm through which there was possibility that an oil vein ran; murdering wife and daughter of the superintendent of the reformatory.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each are as follows: Mississippi, 1; Tennessee, 1."

The Lynching Record

Birmingham, Ala. - 3-45

The nation's lynching record in 1944 was the best ever marked up in the United States as far as is shown in the files of Tuskegee Institute, which has announced that only two persons, both Negroes, were mob victims last year.

Of course two lynchings are two too many. The nation will not have stamped out this crime against law and order as long as every year adds to the total.

Since 1900, according to Tuskegee Institute findings, there has been a steady decline in that crime. In the first five years of the century there were 542 lynchings, an average of 108 a year. From 1910 to 1915, inclusive, the total was 310 and the average 62. In the half-decade, 1920-24, there was a total of 231 and an average of 46. The figures for 1930-34 were 85 and 19. In the last five years lynchings have totaled only 19, for an average of less than four a year.

This improvement, it should be noted, has been made by education and by state and local action, without the necessity of a federal law. It is the result largely of better racial relations, a greater determination to bring to justice persons involved in lynchings and a greater willingness to let the due processes of justice have their way. It is a tribute to the fine spirit of law enforcement that the annual Tuskegee Institute report on lynchings in the last few years has cited more instances of prevention of lynching by prompt and courageous action of officers of the law than it has of lynching.

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Get Angry and Do Something!

THE Pikesville, Tenn., lynching Wednesday of a 17-year-old Negro boy demands anger and action by all decent Americans. Newspapers, giving this horror tale just run-of-the-mill news-story treatment, found it sufficient to say he was "charged" with "attacking" and killing a white woman. Proof? Why, he was a Negro, wasn't he? He was said to have raped and killed her, wasn't he? Therefore, Finis! Daily Worker 11-25-44

But it is not finished! It is time for all decent people to get angry and to act! The temper neither of the Negro nor of his progressive white allies will permit Finis to be written at the end of this story. 11-25-44

For growing numbers of white people—represented in the surging trade union movement throughout the country—see in the repetition of this tale of brutality against the Negro a series of calculated devices for creating disunity. The raping of a Negro woman in Alabama by white men (while the state ignores her pleas for justice), the legal lynching of three Negro youths in Florida for allegedly raping an unnamed white woman, and the Tennessee lynching of a Negro boy for allegedly raping a white woman—these incidents are coming to be related in the public mind with fascist devices to disrupt and ruin our nation. New York, N.Y.

It is significant that a large part of the daily press played down the Tennessee lynching, ignored the raping of an Alabama Negro woman and played up the Florida state lynching. It is equally significant that the trade union movement, assisted by such people's organizations as the trade union movement has influenced, is the medium through which the people are learning to express both their anger and their action. The Governor of Tennessee must be made to feel this anger and to respond to this action.

TWO LYNCHINGS IN 1944

Times — New York, N.Y. 12-31-44

One Less Than in 1943 Recorded in Tuskegee Head's Report

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 30 (AP)—There were two lynchings in 1944, one less than in 1943, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today in his annual report on the subject. The report recorded five lynchings in 1942, four in 1941, and five in 1940.

Both 1944 victims were Negroes, according to the report. One, it stated, was a 65-year-old minister-farmer, who was taken from his home and shot to death by a Mississippi mob. The offense charged, it was added, was that he hired a lawyer "to safeguard his title to a debt-free farm through which there was possibility that an oil vein ran."

"The other victim was recorded as a 17-year-old trusty at the Tennessee State Training and Agricultural School (a reformatory), who was taken from jail and shot to death by a mob after he had allegedly killed the wife and daughter of the superintendent of the reformatory."

7141

Only One Lynching

News & Birmingham Ala. 10-17-44

So far this year there has been only one lynching in the South, according to the Southern Regional Council. In all of last year there were only three. In 1942 there were five, in 1941 four, and in 1940 five. Ten years or more ago the story was different. In 1933 there were 24 lynchings and in 1935 there were 19. Between 1882 and 1901 there were in the entire nation 3,000 of these illegal executions. Between 1920 and 1939 there were only 295.

Thus it is evident that there has been a steady decrease in the number of lynchings. Guy B. Johnson, of Atlanta, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, says a number of things contribute to the present near disappearance of fatal mob violence. These include a maturing of native culture, a sense of national unity in wartime, the organized campaign in the South against lynching and threat of an anti-lynching law.

But principally he thinks the downward movement in lynching figures is a trend like the trend toward greater rights for women, labor and other groups of the populace, trends which he thinks indicate a maturing of American culture. 10-17-44

Whatever the reasons back of this sharp and steady decline in lynchings, there is reason for the entire nation, not only the South, to feel a sense of gratification that this blot upon the records of this country is slowly but surely being erased.

Two Base Crimes

Birmingham News 11-25-44

In Tennessee a 'teen-age Negro trusty in a state reformatory killed the wife and daughter of the reformatory's superintendent in their home where he was working as a houseboy. That was a foul crime. Its foulness is emphasized by the fact that it was committed by one whom the state was trying to reform through putting trust in him. 11-25-44

A little while later, a group of white men obtained custody of the Negro through representing themselves as officers and took him out and lynched him. That, too, was a foul crime, one that struck at the heart of justice and tended to undermine the whole system of fair trials upon which any orderly civilization must depend. Ala.

No matter how base the first crime may have been, it did not justify the second. One wrong cannot rectify another. A lynching is murder, no matter what its victim may have done. It is force without law, the very offense against civilization which we lay at the feet of Hitler and the Japanese. The men guilty of this lynching are not far from the activating notion of the Nazis. 11-25-44

The double crime raises some questions about the effectiveness of reform systems. The Negro youth had been a frequent offender. He first ran afoul of the law when he was only nine years old. In his short career he had been guilty of larceny, carrying concealed weapons, destroying property, assault with a weapon and highway robbery. He was serving a sentence for the latter when he committed the attacks and murders that were followed by his lynching. 11-25-44

Efforts at reform failed in his case. Perhaps we do wrong to expect success in all attempts to turn bad citizens into good. But if there were any doubt in this youth's case, he should not have been put in a position of such trust. Perhaps more expert psychiatric examination would have kept him in closer confinement.

Alabama should scrutinize its own penological system in the light of this Tennessee tragedy.

Tennessee's Disgrace

Richmond Times 12-2-44

THE recent lynching in Tennessee brings the total for this year to two. If there is no other case of mob murder between now and the end of this month, 1944 will show the best record in our history. There were three lynchings in 1943 and in 1939, the best previous years.

The lynching which took place at Pikeville, Tenn., grew out of the killing by a young Negro trusty at the Tennessee Training and Agricultural School, a reformatory, of the superintendent's wife and daughter, apparently because they had refused to give him the keys to their automobile. The murderer was taken to jail. The sheriff was absent, but those he left in charge handed over the prisoner when a mob came. The mob shot the youth. GOVERNOR COOPER has offered $500 reward for the arrest and conviction of the party or parties responsible for the outrage. 12-2-44

In all likelihood, that will be the end of it. Such is the usual history of lynchings. Apparently nobody who was present "recognized" any member of the mob. This was the testimony of the assistant superintendent of the reformatory, who saw the group in broad daylight at close range, but could not identify anybody concerned—"because I didn't have time to look." 12-2-44

Fortunately such episodes are becoming increasingly rare in the South. We are still having from two to three lynchings a year, but the time must come ere long when these savage orgies, occasionally perpetrated by Southern mobs, are a thing of the past. This is desirable and necessary from every standpoint, most of all because of the disgrace which is visited upon the region at periodic intervals by virtue of these happenings. Another reason why it is important for the States to control their mobs, lies in the fact that the Federal government will step in and do it for them, if they don't. The Tennessee criminal who was put to death extralegally, should have forfeited his life, of course, and he would have done so, if the law had been permitted to take its course. But the mob, faced by complaisant officials, interfered with the processes of justice and brought obloquy upon the community and the State of Tennessee. It was a disgraceful performance.

Tennessee Lynching

Birmingham Age-Herald 11-25-44

Tennessee observed Thanksgiving Day with a lynching. It happened at Pikeville, which is a small town 50-odd miles northwest of Chattanooga. A young Negro, inmate of a reformatory, had assaulted and killed the wife and the daughter of the superintendent of the institution. He was taken to the Pikeville jail (which was apparently in charge of a woman cook) and there turned over to a group of vigilantes who proceeded to shoot him "as an example" to other Negro inmates. The boy who was lynched first came to the attention of the Nashville juvenile court at the age of 9. Thereafter, he was involved in at least six offenses, ranging from housebreaking to stabbing. 11-25-44 Ala.

But the men who cut short his career were not the authority to sit in judgment or to execute a sentence upon him. By taking the law into their own hands, they were not rendering justice—they were not even setting up a deterrent. Obviously, by anticipating the operations of a criminal court, they were themselves committing a hideous crime. Lynchers are willing to flout the law for the sake of what they regard as a higher cause. Gov. Cooper has posted a large reward for the identification of these terrorists, but they are probably not in great danger of ever being tried or convicted.

But that is not the only disturbing aspect of this affair. What is here revealed is shocking incompetence in the earlier treatment of the lynchers' victim. He was evidently a psychopathic criminal. That should have been discovered long before he was sent to the reformatory. Any psychiatrist could have told the juvenile court authorities what would be the sure consequence of his being dealt with as a mere delinquent. It was a serious miscarriage for a juvenile court judge to send this youngster to a reform school, or to any institution in which he could be made a trusty. The state of Tennessee has now been painfully reminded of its shortcomings with respect to an adequate handling of its youthful lawbreakers. 11-25-44

This Pikeville business has its lesson for other states, Alabama included, in which juvenile courts have become routine agencies without adequate facilities for working out their problems. With the possible exception of the Memphis juvenile court, where in the South is there such a tribunal which has retained the dynamic quality which alone sets it off from the ordinary criminal court? And where are juvenile courts equipped with psychiatric clinics and with those correctional instrumentalities which really meet the demands imposed on them? Unless we have some sort of reorientation on this score, we will have to pay dearly for our indifference.

Only 2 Lynchings So Far This Year

11-26-44 Montgomery Advertiser

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Nov. 25.—(AP)—The fatal shooting of James T. Scales, 16-year-old negro reformatory school trusty, in Tennessee last Thursday, was the nation's second lynching of the year, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today.

Scales was shot to death at Pikeville, Tenn., following fatal attacks on Mrs. H. E. Scott, wife of the superintendent of the State Training and Agricultural School for negro boys, and their daughter, Mrs. Charles H. McKinney, nineteen.

A group of men removed Scales from Bledsoe County jail, where he had been placed following the attacks, and returned him to the school, where he was shot. Ala

Dr. Patterson said records in Tuskegee Institute's office on research and records showed the other lynching this year occurred in Mississippi.

Three lynchings were recorded last year—one each in Florida, Georgia and Illinois—Dr. Patterson reported. 11-26-44

Lynchings

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Editor Constitution: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1944. I find, according to the information compiled by the Department of Records and Research, there were two persons lynched in 1944. This is one less than the number three for the year 1943, three less than the number five for the year 1942, two less than the number four for the year 1941, and three less than the number five for the year 1940. Ala. 12-30-44

One of the persons lynched was a 65-year-old minister-farmer who was taken about a mile from his home and shot to death by a mob; the other, a 17-year-old trusty at the Tennessee State Training and Agricultural school (a reformatory) was taken from jail and shot to death by a mob.

Both persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Hiring a lawyer to safeguard his title to a debt-free farm through which there was possibility that an oil vein ran, 1; murdering wife and daughter of the superintendent of the reformatory, one.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each are as follows: Mississippi, 1; Tennessee, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON.

Tuskegee, Ala.

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White Press -- Southern

7134

What Is Lynching?

Age Herald - Birmingham, Ala

BY ROBERT QUILLEN

When senators work together to defeat an anti-lynching bill, mystified people who do not read beyond the headlines are apt to say: "Is it possible that the highest ranking statesmen of a civilized land approve or condone lynchings?" 9-11-44

The answer is that no rational person approves it. But many people, for different reasons, think a federal law concerning it would do more harm than good.

Among these are the people who fear any further centralization of power. Under our dual system of government, the police power of preserving the peace has always been left to the states. The national government has not concerned itself with such matters as theft, arson, assault and murder. In the few instances where it seemed necessary for the central government to assume jurisdiction in such matters, it has done so only when commission of the crime involved crossing a state line.

The people approved these measures, but recent growth of federal power has caused many to oppose and dread any further enlargement of it for any purpose.

Other people fear a federal anti-lynching law because it might be used in ways not contemplated by its sponsors.

"Lynching" is not a synonym for murder. The victim is lynched, even though he survives. For lynching is the "execution or injury of a person or persons by private individuals without due process of law, as by a mob."

And a mob is a disorderly crowd, usually lawless, and acting in concert to do violence. 9-11-44

Consider, then, a thing that happened on March 29 last year. A "large group" of men assembled around a machine operated by a fellow workman and took him to the outer gate of the plant, where he was turned over to others. These took him by force to a parking lot where "they set upon him, beat him, kicked him, and among other injuries inflicted, broke his jaw." The quoted words are from official court records. (The man's offense was his refusal to slow down production of vital war material.)

This man was lynched by a mob. And even though the Supreme Court has authorized the use of force by union men in other instances, other courts in years to come will undoubtedly hold that a lynching is a lynching, regardless of cause or place or the race of the victim. 9-11-44

People who oppose one kind of lynching condone other kinds, and they will not favor a federal anti-lynching law until they are sure it will not forbid violence by men "fighting to preserve their rights."

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 10, 1944

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Roosevelt:

As counsel for federal prisoners Frank Fisher, Jr., and Edward R. Loury, now confined at McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary, we appeal to you for their unconditional pardon.

We earnestly believe these prisoners are innocent of the charges against them.

The prisoners are two Negro soldiers, who were 19 and 20 years old respectively at the time of their voluntary enlistment in the United States Army. They were convicted and sentenced upon the charge of rape by general courts-martial at Noumea, New Caledonia, after the officer in charge of their preliminary investigation had recommended that rape charges against them be dropped for lack of any evidence of coercion in any form.

The circumstances in their cases show simply liaison with a woman of loose morals, who during the tryst sought seclusion from passersby rather than their assistance, who accepted pay for her favors and who herself never initiated a complaint against them. To characterize this commerce as rape offends common sense even as the punishment imposed denies common justice.

They were dishonorably discharged from the Army, made to forfeit all pay and allowances and sentenced to life imprisonment. On our appeal for clemency to the Secretary of War the terms of Fisher and Loury were reduced to ten and eight years, respectively.

During their confinement, prior to their trials, these soldiers were subjected to brutal "Third Degree" methods by the military police, including the brandishing of firearms, threats of bodily injury, withholding of bed covering and the refusal to permit the prisoners the minimum requirements of sleep and rest over a period of five days and nights—as well as refusal of hospitalization ordered for one of the prisoners by Army medical authorities. It was at the end of this period that the prisoners signed statements—later used against them.

Grave and harmful doubts have been raised in the minds of Negro Americans and other Americans about the fairness of military justice.

The need for the highest morale among all Americans at this hour of Liberation of the continent of Europe demands removal of any reasonable doubt that Negro soldiers receive justice and fair play while serving America in her struggle for victory. A great contribution to this end will be your favorable action upon this petition for clemency. The many actions which you have so wisely taken to insure national unity and heighten the fighting morale of all Americans in the armed services and civil life, give us confidence that you will in this case grant an unconditional pardon to these two Negro soldiers.

They seek more than freedom. They seek their right as Americans who love their country to resume their faithful and loyal service in the fight for their country's freedom in the armed forces which you so ably serve as Commander-in-chief.

We know that your action in restoring their liberty will be received by the American people with patriotic gratitude and deepening respect for your leadership of our nation at war.

VITO MARCANTONIO

WILLIAM H. HASTIE

NEWS

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE
Hon. VITO MARCANTONIO, President — ANNA DAMON, Secretary
• National Office: 112 E. 19th St., New York 3, N. Y.
LOUIS COLMAN, *Assistant Secretary*
ROBERT W. DUNN, *Treasurer*
357

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DO NOT RELEASE BEFORE
A.M. MONDAY, JUNE 12

PRESIDENTIAL CLEMENCY SOUGHT FOR TWO NEGRO SOLDIERS

A formal appeal for clemency has been presented to President Roosevelt in the cases of Frank Fisher, Jr., and Edward R. Loury, Negro soldiers now confined in McNeil Island Penitentiary on courts-martial convictions of rape, it was announced today by Representative Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense and counsel for the two men.

Associated with Mr. Marcantonio in the appeal is Dean William H. Hastie of Howard University Law School, who is also head of the legal staff of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People.

Original sentences of life imprisonment by courts-martial in the Pacific Area were a few weeks ago reduced to ten and eight years for Fisher and Loury respectively by War Department action upon an appeal made by Mr. Marcantonio and Mr. Hastie. The present appeal asks for full exoneration of the men.

"Grave and harmful doubts have been raised in the minds of Negro Americans and other Americans about the fairness of military justice," the appeal to the President said. "...We earnestly believe these prisoners are innocent of the charges against them."

Describing the history of the case, the letter to President Roosevelt said:

"The circumstances in their cases show simply liason with a woman of loose morals, who during the tryst sought seclusion from passersby rather than their assistance, who accepted pay for her favors and who herself never initiated a complaint against them. To characterize this commerce as rape offends common sense even as the punishment imposed denies common justice."

Confidence was expressed by Mr. Marcantonio and Mr. Hastie that the President would act favorably on their appeal.

The letter to the President cites important factors bearing on the necessity for action in the case:

"The need for the highest morale among all Americans at this hour of liberation of the continent of Europe demands removal of any reasonable doubt

(more)

that Negro soldiers receive justice and fair play while serving America in her struggle for victory. A great contribution to this end will be your favorable action upon this petition for clemency. The many actions which you have so wisely taken to insure national unity and heighten the fighting morale of all Americans in the armed services and civil life, give us confidence that you will in this case grant an unconditional pardon to these two Negro soldiers.

"They seek more than freedom. They seek their right as Americans who love their country to resume their faithful and loyal service in the fight for their country's freedom in the armed forces which you so ably serve as Commander-in-chief.

"We know that your action in restoring their liberty will be received by the American people with patriotic gratitude and deepening respect for your leadership of our nation at war."

(A printed copy of the communication to President Roosevelt is enclosed.)

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(uopwa#16)

37g-1944

Georgia

7144

The Ends Of Justice Served

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga.

The United States Fifth circuit court of appeals, sitting in New Orleans Friday, upheld the Middle Georgia district court's convictions and sentences for Sheriff M. Claude Screws of Baker County, Ga. together with a deputy, Jim Bob Kelly, and a Newton, Georgia, policeman, Frank Edward Jones. 1-16-44

The original verdict, convicting the trio, was returned last October by an all-white jury under Federal Judge Bascom S. Deaver at Albany, Georgia, and carried sentences of three years each with fines of $1,000 each, in connection with the fatal beating of Robert Hall of Baker County.

From the mass of evidence introduced into the hearings by Prosecuting Attorney T. Hoyt Davis, together with the forthright testimony of Baker County's most upstanding white citizens, it would have been difficult to understand how the New Orleans court could have done other than uphold the convictions.

In their appeals, attorneys for the trio contended that the federal court usurped the rights and prerogatives of the state and that in so acting it was clearly out of its jurisdiction. Of course that is an old argument which has been found useful, and sometimes effective, by certain groups to evade an honorable and honest course of action. It has been employed against legislation for an anti-lynching bill. It is being used against the anti-poll tax legislation. And worst perhaps of all, it was used to kill the Absentee Soldier-vote bill. But fortunately in this case the federal court placed human rights above the shout and cry of states' rights. 1-16-44

Fortunately for the Sheriff and his accomplices, under the law, the light sentences and fines happened to be the maximum punishment allowable. Otherwise, it is more than a guess that heavier penalties would have been imposed. For in the words of Prosecuting Attorney T. Hoyt Davis, it was "the most gruesome crime it has been my privilege to try."

Georgia Officers Lose 'Civil Liberties' Case

Advertiser - Montgomery 1-13-44

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 13.—(AP)—The U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, upholding jurisdiction, affirmed today conviction of Sheriff M. Claud Screws of Baker County, Ga., and two other officers convicted in the Middle Georgia District Court on charges of violating the civil liberties statutes in connection with the beating to death of a negro prisoner.

The two-to-one decision was given by Judges Edwin R. Holmes and Curtiss L. Waller, with Judge Samuel H. Sibley dissenting on the ground that the case was liable to criminal prosecution under Georgia law and that the Federal statutes did not apply. 1-13-44

Screws, Frank Edward Jones, a former Newton County policeman, and Jim Bob Kelley, a special deputy, were accused of beating to death Robert Hall, negro alleged to have stolen an automobile tire, in the Baker County courthouse yard.

Each of the defendants was sentenced by District Judge Bascom Deaver to three years imprisonment and fined $1,000.

In Capsule Sheriff Screws

Courts - Memphis, Tenn.

The case of Sheriff Claude M. Screws of Baker County, Georgia versus the United States Government, is set for hearing at the October term of the United States Supreme Court. Not even the personal anxiety of the Sheriff exceeds the popular interest in the case. For upon its outcome rests not only the fate of the Sheriff and his accomplices, but likewise it will determine the future destiny of States' Rights, in so far as Civil Rights' violations are concerned. 10-24-44

The pending case is an appeal from convictions of the Sheriff and two accomplices growing out of violations of Section 52 of the Civil Rights Statutes of the U. S. Department of Justice against the deprivation of life, liberty or property without due process of law.

Sheriff Screws, a local policeman, Frank Jones, and a deputy, Bob Kelley, were convicted and sentenced last October in federal district court of the Middle Georgia division, which was held at Albany, Georgia and presided over by the late and lamented Judge B. S. Deaver. The trio were convicted for arresting a Negro, Robert (Bobbie) Hall, on a false warrant, charging him with theft of an automobile tire and beating him to death without justification. It was revealed that sometime previous, Sheriff Screws had taken a pearl handled revolver from Robert (Bobbie) Hall, and became greatly incensed when Hall appealed to the grand jury and openly threatened to "get" Hall for being so smart. Following a drinking spree, he dispatched Jones and Kelley to arrest Hall, with the result that the three of them beat the victim so severely that he died several hours later. 10-24-44

A state grand jury and district court concurred with the federal government's findings that the evidence showed the three policemen to be guilty of depriving Hall of his life without due process of law, a right vouchsafe to him under the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment. But since the Fourteenth Amendment protects against states rather than individual rights, the government was required to establish further the fact that the deprivation of those rights was the act of the state. The grand jury agreed with the government on this point, also. Thus it was clear throughout the trial proceedings that these officers were acting, not in their individual capacities, but under the cloak of law of the state. 10-24-44

Sheriff Screws' case is the first test of Section 52 as applied to the 14th Amendment. It has been built with care and caution by the searching legal mind of T. Hoyt Davis, who since has been nominated to succeed the late Judge Deaver to the federal Bench. In the event that the Supreme Court rules favorably for the Government against the Sheriff, the Justice Department will be in position to move in on a large number of cases of Civil Rights now pending. According to one estimate between 9,000 and 14,000 complaints have been received annually since 1939 under the Civil Rights Section. In 1943, 31 full investigations under Section 52 were conducted, and only 3 cases brought to trial.

Conviction Upheld By New Orleans

3-Year Terms And $1,000 Fines To — Officers Affirmed

NEW ORLEANS—(AP)—The U. S. fifth circuit of appeals, upholding jurisdiction, affirmed Friday conviction of Sheriff M. Claud [illegible] county, Georgia, and two other officers convicted in the Middle Georgia district court on charges of violating the civil liberties statutes in connection with the lynching of Robert Hall January 29, 1943.

Screws, Deputy Sheriff Jim Bob Kelly and Newton, Ga., policeman Frank Edward Jones, had appealed their conviction on the ground of "state's rights" claiming that the federal court had no jurisdiction over the case. Their counsel had contended that the case was one of murder punishable only by life and should be tried in state courts.

The trio received sentences of three years and fines of $1,000 each following sensational trial in Albany, Ga. According to trial testimony, Hall, a mechanic, was arrested on a false warrant charging him with theft of an automobile tire on the night before his death. 1-13-44

RENOMINATE LYNCH SHERIFF

Courier-Post, Camden, N. J. 3-17-44

Albany, Mar. 17, (ANP)—Interpreted by many as a slap at the federal government, white voters Thursday renominated Sheriff Claude M. Screws, convicted with two other officers in the lynching of Robert Hall, 29-year-old mechanic. The nomination under the Georgia white democratic primary is tantamount to election. 3-17-44

Screws is at liberty under a $7,500 bond pending an appeal of his conviction to the United States Supreme Court. The three year sentence and $1,000 fine against the three officers have already been affirmed by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals sitting at New Orleans.

AUG-1944

MISSISSIPPI JUSTICE

LIBERTY, Miss. — Comes word that a white jury has turned loose Nobel Rider, one of six men accused of murdering Issaac [illegible], Negro minister, and owner of valuable land believed to contain rich mineral deposits. 11-11-44

Rider was chosen by the prosecutor for trial first on the ground that the case against him was the strongest. Now that he has been freed, it is expected that defense counsel will petition the court for dismissal of the other five defendants because of "lack of evidence". The five other defendants are: Narvel Rider, John Brown, Harper Dawson, Robert Dawson and Mann Dawson.

Readers of The New York Age will remember the heinous crime because it received not only front page but also editorial treatment in these columns recently. For several generations the Simmons family has lived on their farm which consisted of 225 acres. Back in 1931, the State of Mississippi, however, took over 200 acres for delinquent taxes. On the remaining 25 acres, Rev. Isaac Simmons and his family lived and farmed. 11-11-44

Now the Simmons farm was believed to have valuable mineral deposits on it and greedy white neighbors contrived and schemed to get possession of it. On the day the dastardly crime was committed, Eldridge Simmons, son of the minister, said he was forced to get into a car with six white men and was driven to his father's house. At the house the men beat the minister, made him get into the car with his son, and then drove about a mile and a half away where the aged minister was forced out of the car.

While the son watched, several of the men raised shotguns and fired while the minister tried to run away. The white men pursued and then the son heard more shots fired before the white men returned to the car and threatened to kill him unless he immediately left the State.

When the minister's body was found, it was discovered that not only had he been [illegible], but also his tongue had been cut out.

It was not until the Federal Bureau of Investigation started a probe of the crime that local authorities in Amite County got busy on the case. It was expected that nothing would happen, but when the FBI turned over its findings in the case over to the local prosecutor, the Amite County Grand Jury indicted the six white men. 11-11-44

Now between March 26 when the actual killing occurred, Elridge Simmons, son of the slain minister, and Laura Lee Houston and Emma Bates, daughters of the victim, lived in deadly fear of their lives, too. It was perfectly natural, then, that by the time of trial that their memories would go bad on them and they would not recognize the actual persons who fired the shots, even though they had seen the shooting.

After all this was Mississippi, and if these three Negroes stood up too strong for their rights their lives would not be worth two cents. When the trial came, the memories of the three surviving members of the dead minister's family went bad. They could not positively identify anyone as having fired the shots. The jury promptly acquitted the defendant on trial and it's a 100 to 1 that the five other defendants will also be freed merely on motion of their counsel.

While no federal crime had been committed in this case, according to the Attorney General of the United States, yet it would seem that somewhere in this case, there should be some circumstances which would permit the federal government to step in and prosecute. Mississippi justice being what it is, there is no hope for Negroes receiving such a thing as fair play in the local courts. We hope that Attorney General Biddle will review the laws and find some statute, even a long forgotten one, which will allow him to take action and bring to account the perpetrators of this heinous crime.

Southern Jimcro Reaction

Peoples Voice — New York, N.Y.

THE EXONERATION of the Mississippi lynchers of Rev. Isaac Simmons by an all-white jury because of "lack of evidence" casts a spotlight on the whole rotten system of semi-feudal exploitation which is still dominant in the plantation areas of the Deep South. 11-18-44

In what Attorney General Biddle denounced as a "particularly revolting crime," Rev. Simmons was killed last spring because he dared to engage legal counsel to protect his property rights. His son, a witness to the affair, was so thoroughly intimidated that only recently did the facts and circumstances of the murder come to light. Local authorities made no effort to prosecute until put on the spot by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Then they proceeded to the usual white-wash given to southern white assailants of "uppity" Negroes.

This case illustrates that callous disregard for human rights and democratic justice which is the almost inevitable outcome of oligarchic Bourbon political rule designed to perpetuate the mass exploitation of the people.

Here lies the strength of such legislative mountebanks as Rankin and Bilbo. This is why an able and liberal President is fired from the University of Texas. Here is the explanation of those anti-labor constitutional amendments recently adopted in Arkansas and Florida; of depressed southern wage scales and living standards; of the poll tax disfranchisement of ten million white and Negro southerners; of open defiance of the Supreme Court ban on the "white primary." This is why three Negro boys suspected of raping a white woman are executed by the State of Florida after a farcical eighty-minute "trail," whereas several known white rapists of a Negro mother in Alabama continue to walk the streets entirely free.

This is also why President Roosevelt's essential policies for victory, enduring peace and post-war economic security are so often blocked by the alliance of southern reactionaries in Congress with the worst isolationist and pro-fascist forces of America. 11-18-44

The past twelve years have witnessed many developments which are undermining the economic and political structure of tory jimcro rule in the South, but the process is far from complete. It is of tremendous importance, however, that the broad coalition of progressive forces which re-elected President Roosevelt now has the power to hasten the establishment of democracy in the South.

There is no more important task before the nation. The whole dastardly system of southern jimcro reaction must be destroyed if American democracy is to live and grow.

Six Whites Indicted In Slaying Of Mississippi Minister In March

Age — New York, N.Y.

11-11-44

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The Amite County Grand Jury returned indictment today of the six men connected with the slaying of the Rev. Isaac Simmons, last March 26 in Amite County, Mississippi. The indictments were returned against Harper Dawson, Roger and Man Dawson, Noble Ryder and John Brown, all of Liberty, Miss. The men were arraigned October 25 before Judge R. E. Bennett.

Attorney General Biddle announced in Washington October 19th that federal officials in southern Mississippi had been instructed to turn over to the Grand Jury the results of an investigation by the FBI into the slaying last March of the Negro Minister. 11-11-44

After the murder, which resulted from a dispute over ownership of land, Simmons' son, Eldridge, was driven out of the state and now resides in New Orleans. In and affidavit turned over to the NAACP by the latter, it was shown that whites had tried to take the property away after discovery of oil on the minister's land.

7146

Based Defense On 'White Supremacy'

Noble Ryder Freed By Mississippi Jury

Pittsburgh Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa., 11-11-44

By SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LIBERTY, Miss—Noble Ryder, one of six white men indicted for the murder of Isaac Simmons, aged Negro preacher, last March 26, was acquitted here last Saturday by an all-white jury following a plea by Defense Attorney Burt Jones based on traditional Southern "white supremacy." With his acquittal, the cases of the other five men probably will not be heard. District Attorney Joe Bown rested the State's case on the testimony of the slain man's son, Eldridge Simmons, who was brought by Federal officers to testify at the trial.

Despite the plea of the District Attorney to the jury to disregard all appeals to race prejudice, the defense attorney pointed out that the State's case rested on the testimony of the slain man's son, as opposed to that of several white men and "if we believed the son and that the white men lied we might as well send word to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that we are ready for complete equality."

11-11-44

CHARGES NAACP BROUGHT PRESSURE

Commenting on the fact that the indictment of the white men was based largely on material gathered by the FBI and turned over to the Amite County Grand Jury, Gordon Roach, co-defense attorney with Jones, stated that it was not unusual for the FBI to take such an active interest in such a case, as the interest resulted "from pressure by the NAACP."

District Attorney Brown pointed out that "white leadership cannot be founded upon brutality," and claimed that any inconsistency in the son's testimony concerning the death of "an inoffensive old preacher" was due to the fact that he had been terrorized. Following his cross-examination of white witnesses, he declared, "There is a regular epidemic of amnesia in this county." He added that the FBI had been courteous in its investigation and that the NAACP entered the case "only in the fertility of Roach's imagination."

ALIBI FOR ACCUSED

The defense introduced only three witnesses in its case, a character witness and two garage operators of Gloster, Miss., who claimed to have knowledge that the accused could not have been in that section of Amite county when the killing occurred.

Eldridge Simmons, son of the slain man, testified that although Noble Ryder did not fire the first two shots at his father he was one of the three men who pursued his father to a place from which he heard the third shot. Asked on cross examination why he had not given the same testimony at the inquest, he said: "I was scared dead and I don't feel so good now."

11-11-44

Simmons told the court that the men in the car, whom he identified, told him: "You had better not know anything about this if it ever comes up," and gave him ten days in which to leave the State. He was living in New Orleans when he was picked up by the FBI and returned to the State along with Laura Lee Houston and Emma Bates, daughters of the murdered minister.

DOUBTS OTHER MEN WILL FACE TRIAL

The daughters testified that they had seen six white men take their father away in a car but said they were too far away to recognize them. Bryant Jones, a Liberty saw mill operator, testified for the State that Noble Ryder had told him shortly before the slaying that he had sent word for Simmons to get off the land.

Following the acquittal of Noble Ryder, Attorney Brown expressed doubt that the remainder of the indicted men, Norvel Ryder, John Brown, Harper Dawson, Roger and Mann Dawson, would ever be brought to trial. A motion for dismissal of charges against them is expected from the defense attorneys before the adjournment of the circuit court.

TRIAL AROUSED WIDE INTEREST

The acquittal thus brings to an end the trial which had aroused widespread interest both within the State and throughout the nation. It followed disclosure in August of the lynch-slaying of the aged minister in March when he attempted to safeguard his property legally against the claims of white neighbors. The murder of the minister and the brutal assault on the son was made public in affidavits attested to by the minister's son.

11-11-44

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, under orders from U. S. Attorney General Francis Biddle, investigated the crime and turned its findings over to the Amite County Grand Jury which indicted the six men. Mississippi law providing for separate trial of the accused men, Noble Ryder, against whom, according to the district attorney, the State had the strongest case, was the first to be brought to trial.

Out of a special venire of 60 men, forty were challenged by the district attorney before a panel was accepted. Judge R. E. Bennett presided.

35 G 1944

37g-1944

It Happened In Mississippi

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga.

The action of an Amite County Grand Jury in returning indictments for six white men in connection with the sordid slaying of a 66 year-old minister-farmer at Liberty, Miss. will go far in correcting the impression of Negroes and others outside of the State toward legal justice in the courts.

10-29-44

An account of the slaying, which actually occurred last March 26, was set forth in an affidavit signed by Eldridge Simmons, 48 year-old son of the slain minister. It was alleged that the band of white men, now definitely known and named in the Grand Jury indictments, sought to appropriate unto themselves, a rich 126 acre tract of land belonging to Rev. Isaac Simmons. Affidavits, containing these facts were signed and turned over to Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Early last week, Attorney General Francis Biddle returned the case to Mississippi because it lacked jurisdiction to act. Thereupon, the state set about locating the witnesses and securing the testimony, which resulted in indictments for six white men.

10-29-44

The action is of course, only a beginning. To begin thinking in terms of sentences for the hoodlums is progressing too far at the moment. Sufficient local sentiment must be mustered among white people that no such lawless behavior will be tolerated in their community. It is bad advertising for the community and for the state. For no matter how diligent and sincere the Washington government may work, if at heart, local citizens do not want or welcome legal justice for all, it can never really become a reality in the South.

Immediately then, we can at least expect a stiff trial for the men and that the valuable farm-land will be kept in the hands of the family to whom it originally belonged.

Mississippi Jury Is Told To Uphold "White Supremacy"

Globe + Independent — Nashville, Tenn.

11-10-44

FBI Gathered Strong Evidence on Case but Failed to Press for Federal Trial; Killers Had Advantage with "Good Alibi"

LIBERTY, MISS.—The six white men who brutally murdered Rev. Isaac Simmons, Baptist preacher and a prosperous farmer, last March after kidnapping him and taking him from his home, are all to go free. Noble Rider, one of the accused, was tried the past week, and by the introduction of "white supremacy" pleas, and an attack on the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by defense attorneys, the jury was induced to bring in a "not guilty" verdict. After that, District Attorney Joe Brown confessed that there would pe no use trying the other five white men, as no conviction could be secured.

11-10-44

This was another one of the "buck passing" cases that shows up the feebleness of the United States Department of Justice as operated by Attorney General Frances Biddle. The FBI, with its usual thoroughness gathered the evidence, and, apparently for political effect, big publicity was made of the FBI activities just before the election. But, with the consent of the Justice Department, the members of the lynching party were tried by the local courts instead of by the Federal Court or at a place outside of the community in which the accused men live.

11-10-44

Acquittal of Ryder, accused of firing the shot in the brutal lynching, was secured on the testimony of three white persons who gave him an alibi, stating he was not in the community when the crime took place. Eldridge Simmons, son of the aged preacher, was the lone prosecution witness to the murder. He had been threatened with death at the scene of the murder if he told what happened. Nevertheless, in spite against such terrific odds, and that the party is still in position in congress and throughout the nation to court, he recited the details of the killing. The Defense attorneys held that his word should not be taken in preference to that of the white men, as that would be a violation of the tradition of Southern "white supremacy."

11-10-44

The aged preacher had been kidnaped and murdered in an effort to deprive him of a good farm he owned in the community, so it was told in first reports on the case. His killing was a violation of Federal Law, it was very plain and this brought the FBI into the case (just before the Presidential election).

7147

"Mississippi Justice"

Weekly — New Orleans, La.

11-11-44

THERE is increasing doubt in the minds of all citizens of color below the Mason and Dixon line as to just what the word "Justice" means to the whites who sit as jury men at the trials of other white men who are being tried for beating, killing or lynching a Negro. The other day in Liberty, Mississippi, a jury of white men acquitted Noble Rider, alleged ringleader and murderer of Isaac Simmons, aged Negro minister-farmer. The case was as simple as this for the jury to decide upon: The minister's son who was present at the slaying testified at the trial and in a signed affidavit told of the revolting crime, "shooting the defenseless man in the back and then cutting his tongue out." The white man, Noble Rider accused of the crime, simply said he didn't commit the crime and had the necessary witnesses to substantiate his defense, whereupon the jury apparently took his word against that of a Negro, acquitting the accused murderer.

The action of this jury brings to mind the action of another Mississippi jury who freed several alleged lynchers of two juveniles a couple of years back. It also reminds us of the two cases in Texas where the Negro defendants who were on trial were slain in the courtroom by whites men and nothing was done about it. Closer home it reminds us that the trials of two white men indicted for slaying a Negro poultry dealer and a youthful Negro peddler, respectively, have not been brought to trial yet though the crimes were committed months ago.

11-11-44

Such a flagrant disregard of justice by whites serves only to nauseate and infuriate a minority whom they are trying to impress that they are a superior people. The cowardly actions of shooting defenseless Negroes in the back, or cutting his tongue out, is just as revolting as the Japs doing the same thing to the soldiers of the Allied Nations. However, such things are to be expected in a war but the action of a Mississippi jury "sanctioning" the shooting of a man in the back and the cutting out of his tongue is not expected of civilization, even the civilization based on Mississippi "white supremacy."

Six Indicted In Miss. Lynching

Daily World — Atlanta, Ga.

10-27-44

WASHINGTON—(N N P A)—In an almost unprecedented action, an Amite County Grand Jury returned murder indictments against six white men for the brutal slaying of the Rev. Isaac Simmons, a farmer, on October 26th before Judge R. E. Bennett, ing on October 26th before Judge R. E. Bennett, ing on October 26th before Judge R. E. Bennett, ing

sulted in the FBI investigation, the results of which were turned over to the district attorney for presentation to the Grand Jury.

Grand Jury action, at first believed improbable because Negro witnesses had been frightened against testifying and had disappeared, was made possible when the FBI turned over to the district attorney depositions taken from the witnesses in their homes and told the officials where the witnesses could be found. District attorney Joe E. Brown said murder indictments were returned

White Jury Frees Farmer In Mississippi Lynch Trial

Tribune — Philadelphia, Pa.

By HARRY McALPIN

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—An all-white jury in Liberty, Miss., responding to the defense attorney's plea—"Are you going to believe these FBI folks and these Negroes in preference to your own white folks?" on Friday acquitted Noble Ryder, one of the six white men charged with the murder of Isaac Simmons, 66-year-old colored preacher, who was shot in the back last March because he protested against the seizure of his land.

Rider, identified by Eldridge Simmons, son of the slain minister, as driver of the car, was the first of the six men brought to trial. His case was considered the strongest one by the state and was tried first.

A dramatic incident of the trial was the arrest by federal authorities of two of the colored witnesses who fled to Louisiana after being frightened about testifying against the white men involved. The federal authorities, acting under a federal statue which makes it a crime to cross a state line to avoid prosecution or testifying as a witness even in a state case, brought the women back and placed them in the custody of three deputy marshals. The witnesses will not be prosecuted on the federal arrest, however. One of the deputy marshalls is reported to have commented after the acquittal—"Justice was absolutely caught under the heel of prejudice." A few white witnesses testified they had seen Rider some place else at the time the crime occurred.

Jury Frees Suspect In Simmons Killing

People's Voice — New York, N.Y.

LIBERTY, Miss.—Nobel Ryder, one of the six white men who was indicted in the slaying of the Rev. Isaac Simmons, 65-year-old farmer-preacher, was exonerated by an all-white jury here Friday because of "lack of evidence." Ryder was tried first, after defense counsel had asked for separate trials of the men, because his case was considered the "strongest." Defense counsel is expected to ask for dismissal of the other cases.

Eldridge Simmons, crippled son of the slain man, who was closest to the scene of the crime, testified on the witness stand that Nobel Ryder did not fire the first two shots, but was one of the four men who pursued his father to a place in the woods from which he heard a third shot.

Asked in court why he did not tell the same story he did at the inquest of his father's death Eldridge said that he was scared to death then and "did not feel so good now." He testified further that the men, who drove him and his father away from their home in a car on the day the elder Simmons was killed, March 26, beat him and told him that he had better not know anything if this ever comes up."

The other two witnesses, Laura Lee Houston and Emma Bates, daughters of the slain man, testified that six white men had taken their father away in a car on the above date, but they were too far away to recognize any of them.

Frank Pirco and Lawrence Havard, two white garage operators, testified that Ryder was in Gloster at the time of the murder. Other witnesses testified to his good character.

The other defendants were Narvel Ryder, John Brown, Harper Dawson, Robert Dawson and Mann Dawson.

According to earlier testimony, all but 25 of the 225 acres of land owned by the dead man had been sold by the state for taxes and Nobel Ryder had purchased a large tract. The minister, believing the sale to be illegal, had employed a lawyer to investigate it for him.

Ryder was said to have brought the other five men with him on the day of the killing in an attempt to intimidate Simmons and order him off the land upon which he was living with his family. The men were reported to have forced the preacher and his son into a car, to have driven them some miles from his home, taken the father into the woods and shot him. When his body was found his tongue had been cut out.

Local authorities had made no attempt to prosecute the case until the Department of Justice ordered the FBI to investigate it. Attorney General Biddle sent the reports of the investigation to local authorities denouncing the incident as murder and a "particularly revolting crime." FBI reports were turned over to the local grand jury.

The prosecutor was District Attorney Joseph E. Brown.

37g-1944

Alabama

7148

Ask Death for Soldier's Lynchers

Daily Worker- New York, N.Y.

4-1-44

Full punishment for the lynch murderers of Pvt. Raymond MacMurray in Alabama on March 11, was asked of Secretary of War Henry Stimson and Attorney General Francis Biddle, the National Negro Congress announced yesterday.

Pvt. MacMurray was shot to death by police while being transported "for safekeeping" from Gadsden, Ala., to Birmingham. He had been charged with "rape." Evidence has been uncovered by Louis E. Burnham, secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, and Osca Bryant, NNC Southern organizer, to indicate the soldier was not even in Gadsden when the alleged rape was committed. Other evidence, pointing to cold-blooded murder of MacMurray, has been presented to Stimson and Biddle by Mr. Burnham.

"Lynching is murder, and there is a law against murder. It must be invoked in the lynch-murder in Alabama of Pvt. Raymond MacMurray," Miss Dale, NNC secretary said.

"We support fully the demand raised by the Southern Negro Youth Conference, for full investigation by the Army and Justice Department of this 'official lynching.' 4-1-44

"This case is only one of many. But it illustrates dramatically two things: first, the logical and murderous conclusion of jim crowism; second, the unholy character of the alliance between Northern disunity Republicans, and the disruptive forces of the Southern Poll Tax Democrats. The murder of MacMurray and whitewashing of his murderers is typical of the 'states rights' on behalf of which the unholy coalition is in full revolt against the win-the-war elements of the administration.

"We recognize the forces of evil in this coalition, and their full responsibility for the failure to fully integrate the Negro people in the armed forces.

"At the same time we call upon the administration to deal with this problem forthwith. 4-1-44

"One of the steps in this direction that must be taken entails an all-out cooperative effort by the Army and by the Department of Justice to punish the lynchers of Private MacMurray. We can assure the administration it will have the fullest support not only of the Negro people, but of all the win-the-war forces in such action."

7143

Newspaper Predicts Indicted Lynchers Will Be Acquitted

Daily World — Atlanta, Ga.

10-12-44

Four White Men On Trial For Brutal Slaying Of Minister

NEW YORK — (ANP) —Daring justice to take its true course regardless of race, creed, color or national origin, PM, a local newspaper, datelined its prediction of the verdict of a Mississippi jury that is trying four white men for the lynching of the Rev. Isaac Simmons of Jerusalem, Miss., on Mar. 28, [illegible] days in advance. Dating the story Oct. 7, the newspaper sensationally predicts that the "four white men will be freed

Tracing the background of the lynching that aroused the nation by the brutal cutting out of the aged preacher's tongue, and the cowardly shooting in the back of the frightened minister, PM said, in slaying of Negro preacher" on "today [illegible] Oct. 7. Notice that we have dated the story. . . . Oct. 16, which is nine days away."

NO CONFIDENCE

10-12-44

"We hope that we are making a serious mistake in writing this news before it ocurs, but we have not the slightest confidence or the slightest reason to believe that our hope will come true.

"The story, you will see, concerns four white men who were arrested in the case of the death of a Negro in Jackson, Miss. Because this is such a color cut case of outrageous disregard for ordinary human decency and civil rights, we sent a reporter first to Washington to check with the civil liberties division of the department of justice and then to Mississippi to check the facts.

"On the basis of everything our reporter has been able to find, and of every fact that we can get in the case, we are convinced that nine days hence, on Oct. 16, the four men who were named in the case will be freed-and white supremacy will mark fins on another case of a human life lost to greed, cupidity and double standards of justice.

10-12-44

DIRE PREDICTION

"And so, as a means of dramatizing that kind of justice—the kind of justice that still prevails in some sections of this country, the civil liberties unit of the department of justice notwithstanding— we told our reporter to write the story datelined Oct. 16 nine days away, and tell our readers the fact we know today; That nothing will come of this Negro's death.

"If this story should by some one chance in a million reverse the course of that kind of justice and prove to be incorrect, we will take more pleasure in printing a correction than any correction any newspaper ever published."

Elizabeth Wilson was the staff correspondent who dug up a few facts of the six-month-old lynching for which four white men are defendants.

P. S. I am a member of the white race and a pupil in a democratic high school.

From the Readers

PM — New York 10-14-44

Mississippi Justice

Dear Editor: 10-13-44

There must be some way that we can protest to influence the stupid, "aristocratic" mental attitude of the blind Southerner. The Mississippi murder case is so incredibly un-American that I imagine most people will find it hard to believe.

I was born and reared in the South and the shame I bear because of this is unbounded; it's like seeing mental pictures of yourself with people pointing their finger at you. If I feel this way for being a Southerner, imagine what a man must feel if he is pointed at for being black.

New York CHLOE OWEN

• • •

I have read Elizabeth Wilson's article concerning the injustice in the slaying of a Negro preacher Isaac Simons. It is as horrible as what the Nazis are doing to the conquered peoples of Europe, shooting a man in the back without a free people's trial. It is hard to even think that these killers may be walking the streets, free, thinking they have taken justice into their hands. These men think they are dominant because they are white.

10-15-44

New York LAURENCE PETT

7142

Witnesses Fail To Appear For Lynching Case

Mystery Shrouds Disappearance Of Slain Man's Son

LIBERTY, Miss. — (SNS) — The actual ending of the case of four white men named as murderers of a 66-year-old Negro minister near here apparently will vary but slightly from the ending of PM's deliberately premature story on October 8, which anticipated a "white-wash of the four suspects by a white Amite county grand jury.

The case has not developed into a "white-wash." Instead it appears as if it will die from neglect. Four Negro witnesses expected to testify before the grand jury last Monday failed to appear.

NO ANSWER

Sheriff Wiley Smith said that the missing Negroes had been in the county up to a few days, but, for some reason he was at a lost to explain. He added they may have vanished to New Orleans, Memphis or someplace else in the state of Louisiana.

Eldridge Simmons, son of Isaac Simmons, the aged victim, was supposed to be in New Orleans, the sheriff stated. He explained he had wired New Orleans asking the police to locate Simmons and to tell him that he was wanted as a witness. The sheriff said further that by Tuesday night he had not heard if Simmons had been found.

The sheriff said that similar wires had been sent to Memphis for Mrs. Laura Houston and her husband, whose name the sheriff could not recall. No answer came from Memphis either.

The fourth witness, the sheriff stated, is Mrs. Emma Bates, daughter of the murder victim. She was supposed to have gone to Memphis, it was stated, but it was learned this week that he had left and gone to work someplace in Louisiana in a sawmill.

That is where the case stands at the present time. The grand jury the sheriff pointed out, can't act if witnesses are not present in the city. The jury sits through Thursday of next week, the sheriff stated, and if witnesses do not appear by that time the only thing that can be done is to continue the case to the next sitting. He was not hopeful on the chances of any of the witnesses reaching here on time.

The four suspects in the murder are Harper Dawson, Noble Ryder and two of the latter's brothers.

According to an affidavit by Eldridge Simmons, who is small and crippled, these four and two other men appeared at his father's farm on last March 26, herder Eldridge and his father into a car, drove down a wooded road, beat Eldridge and also his father, the victim, and then shot the latter to death with a shotgun.

Isaac Simmons earlier in the year had employed a lawyer to clear up the title to his 225 acre farm. Noble Ryder earlier had bought part of the farm and was trying to sell its mineral rights. It was claimed by the grand jury that the four white men sought the farm place because of its great finapcial value.

Case Of Noble Rider, Charged In Slaying Of Negro, Ready For Jury

LIBERTY, Miss.—(AP)—An Amite County Circuit Court jury probably will receive Friday, the case of Noble Rider, one of six white men charged with murder in connection with the slaying of Isaal Simmons, Negro preacher, near here last March.

The jury, selected Thursday after the exhaustion of a special venire of 60, was forced to spend the night in the century-old courthouse because of lack of accommodations in this rural county seat. Sheriff Wiley Smith arranged for mattresses to be brought in.

Presentation of testimony began late Thursday after much of the day had been spent in examining prospective jurymen.

Eldredge Simmons, son of the slain man, said on the witness stand that his father was slain by a white man he was unable to identify. The witness said that Noble Rider did not fire the first two shots, but was one of three men who pursued his father to a place from which he heard a third shot.

Simmons said he saw a white man shoot his father in the back with a shotgun. Asked on cross-examination why he had not made the same testimony at an inquest, Simmons said he was "scared dead—and I don't feel too good now."

Two daughters of the slain man related how their father had been taken away in a car by six white men, but said they were too far away to recognize any of them. Eldredge said that the men in the car beat him, told him he had better not "know anything about this if it ever comes up," and gave him 10 days to leave town. He was returned here by the Federal Bureau of Investigation after being picked up in New Orleans.

The case brought about an investigation by the federal government and Atty. General Francis Biddle ordered that results of the probe be turned over to the Amite County Grand Jury which returned murder indictments against Noble Rider, his brother, Narvel Rider; John Brown, Harper Dawson, Roger Dawson and Mann Dawson.

More on Indictments

Dear Editor:

May I both on behalf of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People and personally congratulate and thank PM and Elizabeth Wilson for the superb job done in getting indictments of the accused lynchers of the Rev. Isaac Simmons, 66-year-old Negro minister, in Mississippi, because he refused to be cheated out of his property. The accomplishment is so considerable that I do not have words sufficiently eloquent to express adequately our admiration.

WALTER WHITE,
New York *Secretary*

From the Readers

Simmons Indictments

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to PM on the indictments in the murder of the Rev. Simmons. Had it not been for PM's postdated article, I am quite certain that no indictments would have been handed down.

As soon as we read your postdated story, I telephoned a Workers Defense League Board member, James Farmer, himself a Negro minister, who was then in Nashville, asking him to get to work on the case. He telephoned a leading white citizen of Jackson, Miss., who succeeded in getting the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Interracial Council to meet Oct. 14. The Council sent a letter to the district attorney of Amite County, asking him to see that justice is done, and telling him that they would back him up in law enforcement.

PM deserves real credit for a courageous prediction which shamed Mississippi into action. However, let us keep our eyes on the trial, to see if things have changed since Odell Waller said that some people have "no chance at all."

New York MORRIS MILGRAM,
National Secretary,
Workers Defense League.

White Jury

Being Picked To Try Rider

Son of Slain Negro Is 'Available' to Testify

Special Correspondence

LIBERTY, Miss., Nov. 3.—A jury of white citizens from Amite County was being selected today for the trial of Noble Rider, one of six white men charged with the murder of Isaac Simmons, 66-year-old Negro preacher, who was shot in the back last March because he protested against the seizure of his farm.

Yesterday's session was taken up with the impaneling of a special venire of 60 men from which the trial jury was being chosen today. Defense counsel sought postponement on the grounds that a material witness would be unable to appear because he was unable to obtain gasoline but Circuit Judge R. E. Bennett ordered the trial to proceed.

District Attorney Joseph E. Brown stated that all the State's witnesses were "available" and that all would be in court to testify, including Eldridge Simmons, the dead man's son, who was expected to tell his eye-witness story of the murder, identifying Noble Rider as the driver of the car in which his father was taken to a wooded road and killed.

Reports that FBI agents had arrested the younger Simmons and his sister, Emma Bates, on a charge of fleeing from the State to avoid testifying, were denied by Brown.

The prosecutor said that the two Negroes were "a little apprehensive" but were willing to testify and would be brought to Liberty at the State's expense for their court appearance.

5 May Escape Murder Trial In Mississippi

Prosecutor Thinks Cases Will Be Dismissed

PM is unhappy to report that a prediction in its Oct. 8 issue seems to be coming true. The prediction was that six men accused of murdering an aged Negro in Amite County, Miss., never would be brought to trial. One of the accused has been tried and acquitted by a white jury. The ensuing story indicates, however, that the remaining five defendants will never be brought to trial.

Special Correspondence

LIBERTY, Miss., Nov. 6.—Prosecuting Attorney Joe E. Brown of Amite County held little hope today that the five remaining men indicted for the murder of Isaac Simmons, aged Negro minister, would be brought to trial.

His pessimism was based on the perfunctory acquittal of Nobel Rider, first of the six defendants to be tried, by a white jury. Motion for dismissal of the charges against Narvel Rider, John Brown, Harper Dawson, Roger Dawson and Mann Dawson, the other defendants, was expected by Brown before the adjournment of Circuit Court here. Nobel Rider was tried first because Brown believed the case against him was the strongest of the six.

The first defendant was found not guilty after Defense Attorney Burt Jones told the jury that the State's case rested on the testimony of the slain man's son, as opposed to that of several white men "and if we believe the son and that the white men lied, we might as well send word to the National Assn. of Colored People that we are ready for complete equality."

Simmons, Negro minister and farmer, was killed by three shotgun blasts after six men visited his farm and took him and his son, Eldridge, away in a car, according to the earlier affidavit by Eldridge, who was a witness at the Nobel Rider trial.

The son's testimony at the trial was inconsistent because he has been terrorized, Prosecutor Brown told the jury.

MISSISSIPPIAN FREED IN SLAYING OF NEGRO

One Of Six Accused Of Murder Acquitted By Jury

LIBERTY, Miss., Nov. 3.—(AP)—Noble Rider, 33, one of six white men charged with murder in connection with the slaying of Isaac Simmons, negro preacher, last March, was acquitted late Friday by an Amite County jury.

The case was given the jury after ninth grade student, said that he the prosecution closed with testimony by a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent and a 14-year-old boy.

Robert S. Moore, FBI special agent from the Jackson, Miss., office testified how he and another agent had investigated the slaying

[illegible] their defense Brown, and three defendants, and [illegible] in the car between 9 and 10 a.m. Several defense witnesses earlier in the day had said the Rider brothers left Gloster about noon, roughly the time of the slaying as set by prosecution witnesses.

Castor, other men [illegible] a.m. and 10 [illegible] two of the five witnesses [illegible] said the Rider brothers [illegible] indicted in the case, [illegible] alone about [illegible] ward Liberty on the morning of the slaying. [illegible] witnesses.

All White Jury Frees Leader Of Mississippi Mob

Daily World—Atlanta
10-5-44
10-5-44

May Not Bring Others To Trial, Says Prosecutor

LIBERTY, Miss.—(S N S)—Noble Rider, 33, was acquitted by an all-white jury Friday night of a murder charge in connection with the slaying of Rev. Isaac Simmons well known local minister and farmer, and after he had been freed District Attorney Joe E. Brown indicated that there was some doubt that five other white men, charged in the slaying of the aged preacher, would ever be tried.

Following the jury's verdict, Brown stated that he brought Rider to trial first because he believed he had the strongest case against the 33-year-old white farmer.

Rider and five other white men of this community were indicted last week for the slaying of Rev. Simmons near here in what the state charged was a dispute over the ownership of a farm owned by Simmons and his son, the latter who was run from this community after his father had been brutally murdered by the group of white men who wanted possession of the valuable farm property of the Simmons family. Simmons was murdered on last March 26, it was stated.

10-5-44

FBI ENTER CASE

During the latter part of August of this year an investigation was begun in the case of the reported lynching of Simmons, who was 66-years-old when he was slain, by the United States Justice Department at Washington. At that time the incident was reported to the civil liberties section by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Attorney's office in the New Orleans area toward the end of July, and the investigation was begun on August 4, of this year.

According to information gleaned from the civil liberties section and the NAACP, which interested itself in the case, the Rev. Simmons owned a 220-acre debt-free farm in Amite county here. Several whites in the community learned that there were possible oil deposits, and certainly large timber areas on the land, and began to inveigle the property away from him.

10-5-44

For a period, however, certain tax payments were due and they hoped to get the property by auction. Rev. Simmons later paid up these back taxes, which angered the whites, and on March 26 three of the white men went to the Simmons home and took him and his son, Eldridge, in their car. The pair was taken into the woods, where the elder Simmons was beaten, taken down a road, and both were put out of the car. The aged minister started to run from the whites after alighting from the car and was shot in the back as he fled. The son was later run out of town.

10-5-44

INDICTMENTS RETURNED

Last week in an almost unprecedented action an Amite County grand jury returned murder indictments against the six white men for the brutal, lynch-killing of Simmons the Department of Justice announced. The slaying resulted in an FBI investigation, the results of which were turned over to the District Attorney for presentation to the grand jury, which group later brought forth the indictments of the six whites.

Grand jury action, at first was believed improbable because Negro witnesses had been frightened against testifying and had disappeared, was made possible when the FBI turned over to the District Attorney depositions taken from witnesses in their homes and told the officials where the witnesse could be found.

37h-1944

DOOM 5 NEGRO YANKS TO DIE FOR AUSTRALIA RAPE

3-26-44

Convicted on Charge of Red Cross Aid.

TOWNSVILLE, Australia, March 26 (Sunday)—(AP).—Five American Negroes have been convicted and sentenced to death by army court martial for raping a white American Red Cross woman on the outskirts of this Australian city a month ago.

Testimony presented was that the woman, seeking a ride, was picked up by a truck driven by one Negro and carrying the other four. They drove out of town, where the woman was raped by all five. Later she reported to authorities and the Negroes were apprehended.

The court martial sentences are subject to review. Four of the Negroes are American soldiers, the fifth a merchant seaman.

[The Associated Press did not identify the Negroes because their home towns were not available for publication.]

Fear Of Rioting Shifts Site Of Attack Trial

News—Birmingham, Ala.
8-25-44

QUINCY, Fla.—(AP)—The trial of three Negroes charged with criminally attacking a white woman—thwarted here Thursday by the threat of "heavy bloodshed"—will be held later at Gainesville, 175 miles away.

After the Gadsden County Circuit Court waited in session more than six hours without the accused Negroes being produced, Gov. Spessard L. Holland issued a statement saying the defendants could not be brought here without danger of bloodshed. 8-26-44

Some 250 state militiamen and defense force members were on duty around the courthouse here to prevent violence, but there were no demonstrations.

Two cars of State Highway Patrolmen were blockaded on the highway between Quincy and Tallahassee and held there an hour, the governor said. The blockade was effected by automobiles occupied by armed men. The Negroes were not in the party and the patrolmen were not harmed.

Shortly after Circuit Judge W. May Walker transferred the case to Gainesville, a big convoy of state guards and highway patrolmen transferred the three Negroes from the Tallahassee Jail to the state prison at Raiford. 8-25-44

The Tallahassee Jail was under heavy guard Thursday and at one time was the scene of a conference on protective measures between the governor and state militia officials.

The Negroes, Fred Lane, 19; James Davis, 16, and James Williams, 26, are accused of forcing the 20-year-old wife of an Army sergeant from her car the night of July 30, assaulting her, shooting her twice and leaving her under a pile of pine branches. She recovered and is expected to be the main witness at the trial.

Florida Rape Trial Transferred To Protect Negro Defendants

News Age-Herald—Birmingham, Ala.
8-27-44

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—(AP)—Circuit Judge W. May Walker and State Atty. Orion C. Parker, Jr., of Tallahassee, will go to Gainesville next Wednesday to start proceedings for the delayed and transferred trial of three Negroes charged with raping a white woman in Gadsden County July 30.

Gov. Spessard L. Holland assigned the two court officials to the Alachua County Circuit Court for an indefinite period beginning Monday to dispose of the case, but Judge Walker said it will take until Wednesday to get the case record transferred to Gainesville. He will set the new trial date and draw a jury venire then.

Judge Walker granted the change of venue Thursday when officers who had custody of the Negroes notified the court in Quincy several hours after the trial was to begin that they had been unable to produce the defendants in court, and witnesses testified there would be bloodshed if there was an attempt to bring them into Gadsden County.

* * *

THE ST. PETERSBURG INDEPENDENT REPORTED Saturday that armed posses of Gadsden County citizens, including prominent business and professional men of Quincy, had defied state law enforcement officials to bring the prisoners into the county.

Gov. Holland reiterated a previous statement that so far as he knew there has been no identification of the men who blockaded two highway patrol cars and held their occupants for about an hour the night before the trial was to begin.

Gov. Holland said in announcing assignment of Judge Walker and State Atty. Parker to Gainesville that he was interested primarily in getting "this case disposed of as speedily and decently as we can in a fair and unbothered way. They are going to be protected over there (in Gainesville) just as fully as the court requests, and by as many state militiamen as heads of the State Guard consider necessary. 8-27-44

* * *

ABOUT 250 STATE GUARDS AND 60 HIGHWAY PATROLMEN were on duty in Leon and Gadsden County Thursday for the trial that was to be held in Quincy.

He said Col. E. D. Vestal and Lt. Col. Hugh L. Mays, who were in charge of the State Guard units, "both were of the feeling that they could force their way" through parties of civilians patroling the roads between Tallahassee and Quincy "but to do so would result in an armed clash and heavy bloodshed."

"It would be an idle thing to fight their way through" in the face of belief by Qunicy's civic leaders that the Negroes could not get a fair trial after they were brought there.

Director J. J. Gilliam said Saturday that in addition to the two patrol cars previously reported stopped and held on the Midway Road halfway between Tallahassee and Quincy, another car had been stopped by an automobile blockade early Wednesday morning on the road leading to Bainbridge, Ga., but was released immediately.

He said none of the men in the blockade parties had been recognized. 8-27-44

* * *

GILLIAM ALSO SAID THAT THROUGHOUT MOST OF WEDNESDAY NIGHT and Thursday, the highways to Quincy were not blocked but there were automobiles on all roads, on feeder roads, and parked in hidden spots that "were in a position to block the roads" at almost any time.

Gov. Holland previously had said there seemed to be "a carefully laid plan" to seize the three Negroes.

The defendants are Fred Lane, 19, James Davis, 16, and James Williams, 26. They are accused of forcing a 20-year-old wife of a soldier from her car near Chattahoochee, assaulting her, shooting her twice in the head and leaving her in the woods. She later made her way to the highway and reported the attack. She has recovered and will be a witness at the trial.

DOOM 3 NEGROES FOR RAPING OF SERGEANT'S WIFE

Tribune—Chicago, Ill.
9-1-44

Gainesville, Fla., Aug. 31 (AP).—Three Florida Negroes were condemned to death by electrocution today, after pleading guilty in militia guarded Circuit court that they raped a 22 year old white wife of an army sergeant at gunpoint.

Verdict of death was announced in the street by loudspeaker to some 300 spectators, barred from the courthouse by the military. There was a burst of applause when Col. E. D. Vestal, militia commander, said: "They will be electrocuted." 9-1-44

Guards took the Negroes from the court shortly afterward without incident, and headed for state prison at Raiford, Fla., where the condemned will remain until execution date set by the governor.

The state was frustrated last week in its efforts to place the defendants on trial at Quincy. Gov. Spessard Holland said there apparently was a "carefully laid plan" to seize the Negroes at that time.

Troop-Guarded, 3 Florida Negroes Sentenced to Die

Star—Washington, D.C.
9-8-44

Gainesville, Fla., Aug. 31 (AP).—Three Florida Negroes pleaded guilty and were condemned to death by electrocution today, after admitting in militia-guarded court that they raped a 22-year-old white woman at gunpoint.

The verdict of death was announced in the street by loudspeaker to some 300 spectators barred from the courthouse. There was a burst of applause when Col. E. D. Vestal, militia commander, said: "They will be electrocuted."

Guards took the Negroes to State Prison at Raiford, Fla.

Circuit Judge W. May Walker called the victim, wife of an Air Forces sergeant, for testimony, and she told how she was forced from her car at gunpoint near Chattahoochee, Fla., July 30. She said she was held prisoner for several hours and raped six times. Later she was shot twice and left for dead under a pile of brush.

The Shocking Facts in Florida's 'Scottsboro'

Daily Worker—New York, N.Y.
9-13-44

By JAMES W. FORD

Governor Spessard L. Holland, Attorney General Tom Watson and Circuit Court Judge W. May Walker, highest officials of the state of Florida, in Nazi fashion, are enacting another Scottsboro case. It is a disgrace to our nation and the state of Florida. This outrageous display of power is a shattering blow to the fairness and civilization of our country in the eyes of justice-loving people throughout the world.

Three Negro youths charged with raping a white woman have been sentenced to die at Gainesville, Fla., on the flimsiest and most questionable evidence and undemocratic methods.

What must the Puerto Rican people who are only a stone's throw from the coast of Florida and the peoples throughout all Latin America think of this outrage?

The American public demands to intervene in this case. There is absolutely no assurance that there has been a fair trial. The charge is rape. In no civilized country in the world even in case of guilt is the penalty death. Why the death penalty where there is reason for the greatest doubt? And there is doubt if we are to go by so many false charges of this kind.

THE FACTS

What are the facts? What was the atmosphere at the so-called trial?

1. It was a star-chamber proceeding.
2. Only 25 people at a time were allowed in the courtroom.
3. No Negroes were permitted in the courtroom at all. In fact, Negro citizens of Gainesville were ordered and kept off the streets.
4. There was no jury and the alleged confessions are a deep secret.
5. The courtroom was cleared even of witnesses when the woman alleged to be attacked testified.
6. The name of the woman has never been revealed.
7. She was not questioned in any detail.

What to do about it?

The majority of the American people who love the good name of our country and who regard this front of race relations to be a great test of our democracy in the war in which we are engaged, must intervene and demand a thorough investigation in this case. The must prevent the disgrace of our nation by that minority of Americans represented by such people as Governor Holland and his henchmen in Florida. We must rescue these three Negro boys.

Unionists Rally to Save 3 Negroes Sentenced to Die in Fla. 'Rape' Case

Daily Worker—New York, N.Y.
9-13-44

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Sept. 12—Trade union representatives here are engaging counsel to investigate the case of three Negro young men sentenced to die in the electric chair for the "rape" of a white woman.

James Williams, 26, Fred Lane, 19 and James Davis, 16, were sentenced to die last Thursday after a hurried two-hour "trial" at Gainesville. Judge W. May Walker of Talla-

According to trade unionists, the case has all the earmarks of a Scottsboro frameup.

The defendants allegedly pleaded guilty with their lawyer as state militia and highway patrolmen crowded into the courtroom armed with rifles and tommy guns and a mob outside.

The three were escorted from the courtroom to the witness stand. The young woman, allegedly raped July 30, seemed to have made a remarkable recovery when she appeared on the witness stand.

"This case is absolutely destitute of any foundation of fact," the spectators into tears when he said: "It is absolutely destitute of any foundation of fact. The defendants allegedly pleaded guilty with their lawyer as state militia and shot July 30 and James Davis, 16, were sentenced to die last Thursday after a hurried two-hour "trial" at Gainesville. Judge W. May Walker of Talla-

State Prison at Raiford, Fla. trucks to the courthouse. The court and returned to protection of the "trial" and declared he wished to prevent Flor

da's name from being "stained" by a lynching, said yesterday that he expects the sentence to "be carried out as early as the law provides."

Labor and other progressive groups, meanwhile, are rallying support to the defendants, believed by many to victims of elements intent on preventing the Negro people from gaining full equality in the war.

Florida Supreme Court Dismisses Execution Stay Of 3 Negro Boys

Age.-New York N.Y.

10-7-44

The Supreme Court of Florida late Thursday dismissed appeals from death sentences filed on behalf of three Negro boys who were convicted and sentenced at Gainesville, on August 31, in 80 minutes, while a mob howled outside the courthouse.

Following the mandate of dismissal, which bars the three of all legal review of their trials as provided by law, Governor Spessard Holland is expected to set a new date for the electrocution.

Meanwhile, the Florida Committee for Preservation of Legal Rights was seeking counsel willing to defy the Ku Klux Klan and take what further last-minute legal steps are possible to give the three an opportunity for a real day in a real court. 10-7-44

The three victims are James Davis, 16, Freddie Lane, 19, and Jesse C. Williams, 26. They were convicted on a charge of rape.

The new development was reported in New York by the International Labor Defense, whose attorney, Samuel A. Neuburger, has been in Florida advising the Committee there on the constitutional rights of the defendants.

The court's decision followed a plea last Monday when, shattering all legal precedents and traditions a young white girl, not a lawyer, appeared before it to plead for the lives of the three boys. In all the state no lawyer had been found willing to defy the Ku Klux Klan lynch threats by representing the three at the hearing on a motion by the state to dismiss the appeal as "frivolous." 10-7-44

The attorney who filed the appeal, retained by the defendants with the aid of local unions and the International Labor Defense, had withdrawn from the case. Threats against his life if he continued had been made by the Ku Klux Klan. The filing of the appeal had prevented the boys from being electrocuted on September 18, the first date set for execution.

When no counsel could be found, Miss Mary Kogge went before the court, sent by the Florida Committee, and representing the people of the state, asking that the court deny the motion to dismiss the appeal, or postpone consideration until counsel could be found who would dare defy the Klan and represent the defendants formally. She appealed to the court to assist in finding such an attorney.

Eisenhower Backs Plea For Soldier Facing Death

Defender—Chicago, Ill.

6-17-44

By GEORGE PADMORE
(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON—General Dwight Eisenhower, high commander of Allied armies invading France, this week assured Negro leaders here that the drastic death penalty would be ameliorated in the case of a U. S. Negro soldier accused of raping a British housewife.

Following on the heels of a widespread protest by British newspapers, General Eisenhower took time off from his duties of directing the greatest military operation in world history to write John Carter, secretary of the League for Colored Peoples, assuring him that clemency would be favorably considered in reviewing the court martial proceedings.

The accused Negro soldier pleaded innocent to the rape charge and declared that the married British woman filed charges against him because he would not pay her the high amount she asked after several trysts with him. 6-17-44

In his letter to Carter, a native British Guianap and youngest colored British lawyer, Eisenhower wrote: 6-17-44

"Extreme penalties are never approved by responsible American authorities except where circumstances are of the most aggravated nature. In the particular case to which you refer, I have been informed that there are many mitigating circumstances. Therefore, I feel safe in saying that final review of the case will undoubtedly result in amelioration of the sentence."

The court decision was based on a statement by a woman who alleged she left her husband in bed and walked a hundred yards at night in nightdress to show a Negro the way to a railway station. The 32-year-old soldier faced court, consisting of seven white and one Negro officer, charged with subsequently raping the woman.

The defendant, whose identity was undisclosed, pleaded not guilty. The woman is the wife of a lorry driver residing at Bath and is the mother of two children. She told the court that on the night in question she was asleep with her husband when she was awakened by knocking at the parlor door. Looking out in the moonlight she saw a Negro who asked the way to the Bristol railway station. "I told my husband that I was going to show the man the way to the station," the woman testified. 6-17-44

Police investigators giving evidence said the soldier signed a confession. Police, however, admitted extracting the confession after the Negro was made to stand at attention for 45 minutes during questionings. When called to give a statement, the soldier denied charges, saying, "I made a date with the woman between half past eight and nine. She said she could see me later. We went into a field. We had been there a couple of times before. She asked for two pounds I told her I had only one pound. She walked off and said, 'I will get you into trouble.' I just laughed and walked away."

The case has aroused the greatest public indignation. Protest letters are pouring into U.S. Army authorities and newspapers. In a leading editorial the London Daily Mirror reveals it has received a large number of letters questioning the case.

37th-1944

Indict Man After Girl Is Stabbed

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.

GI's Wife Found Slain In Swank Dixie Section

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — After maintaining his innocence for more than 90 days, Worley James, 32, recently confessed the slaying of Mrs. Lynn Drew, 19, according to a statement made public by the police last week.

11-25-44

On Saturday a Montgomery County Grand Jury indicted James on murder charges, criminal attack, carnal knowledge, and larceny.

In addition to being charged with the killing of Mrs. Drew, the defendant was also indicted on charges of attacking Bessie Williams and 10-year-old Jane Smith, and with larceny in the residence of Jack Cobb.

In connection with the murder of Mrs. Drew, the Grand Jury pointed out that it had "unanimously concluded that her husband . . . was in no way connected with or responsible for his wife's death." The panel stated that such exoneration should be made in view of "publicity to certain rumors, not well founded. It added an expression of sympathy to Drew, a Maxwell Field cadet. Previously, no official mention had been made of Cadet Drew in connection with the investigation.

The nude body of Mrs. Drew, a bride of three weeks, was found in a drainage ditch on June 19, near a private home in the fashionable Clovedale section, where she had been staying while visiting here. She had been stabbed through the heart.

James To Face Trial Friday In Drew Murder

Advertiser—Montgomery, Ala.

Search Of Well Fails To Yield New Evidence; Another Case Put Off

11-23-44

Through a change in plans after court opened yesterday morning, the case against Worley James involving the rape of a negro woman, scheduled for yesterday was continued until the February term of court; the Drew murder case was set for trial Friday, and the trial of Arthur Lee Coleman, negro charged with rape, was held yesterday.

Postponement of trial of one of the cases against James was made necessary by the fact that the jury panel had been exhausted, it was said Tuesday night, and at that time it was announced that the case involving rape would be tried yesterday.

Coleman, found not guilty by the jury, was released after the verdict was brought in around 2 p. m.

11-23-44

Engine Company Number Six, directed by Asst. Fire Chief B. W. Meek, and Police Capt. T. H. Goins, made a thorough search of a well on the premises of the home of Worley James on Mt. Meigs Road yesterday morning in an effort to find evidence corroborating his confession of the murder of Mrs. Lynn Drew, 19-year-old bride. The search, instigated by the discovery in the chicken house of a knife answering the description of the instrument with which Mrs. Drew was stabbed, yielded nothing but brickbats, the searchers said, after they had pumped the well dry and combed the bottom.

In spite of this failure to find corroborative evidence, Solicitor Seibels said last night the trial would be held Friday.

James, convicted Tuesday of carnally knowing a 10-year-old negro girl, was given the death penalty. In addition to the rape and murder charges against him, he is charged with grand larceny in a fourth case.

Death Chair For James, Jury Verdict

Advertiser—Montgomery, Ala.

11-24-44

Penalty Prescribed In Attack On Negro Girl; Another Trial Today

Drew Case Waits

Venire Is Exhausted So May Go Over Until Next Term Of Circuit Court

After deliberating four and one-half hours, a Circuit Court jury brought in at 9:30 o'clock last night a verdict of guilty with the death penalty in the case of Worley James, negro on trial yesterday for carnal knowledge of a 10-year-old girl of his own race.

Given the case at five minutes before 5 o'clock, the jury was taken to supper at 7:43 p.m., and shortly after its return at 8:45 p.m., reached a decision and announced to the court at 9 p.m. that it was ready to give the verdict. The prisoner and his defense attorney, John Sankey, were summoned and the verdict was read at 9:30 p.m. by B. Frank Noble, foreman of the jury.

11-25-44

Notified at his home of the verdict, Solicitor Temple Seibels said trial of James on a second charge, that of rape of a 23-year-old negro woman, would go forward today.

New Drew Evidence

Questioned concerning the Drew murder, with which James is also charged, the solicitor said that it would not go to trial at this time as the lack of enough jurors to empanel a third jury made it impossible. He said, however, that a trial might not be necessary in view of the fact that evidence believed to be corroborative of James' confession to the murder of Mrs. Drew, made early in October, had been found.

Asked what the evidence was, Solicitor Seibels said a knife with a nine-inch blade had been found at the house where James had lived, and was believed to be the instrument with which Mrs. Drew was stabbed. He also said that a negro woman had admitted that she had seen James with the knife.

11-25-44

Further evidence, he said, is believed to be in a well at the house where James made his home, and he added that the Fire Department would make a search of the well this morning to determine if this is true.

Death Verdict Asked

In yesterday's trial, Solicitor Seibels told the jury he would "rather let him (James) straight out than give him any molly-coddle sentence like a life sentence," following the trial. Defense Attorney Edward Wadsworth declared the State "has not made out a case," and said the prosecution did not try to disprove James's statement that he was working at a downtown club at the time of the alleged offense.

11-26-44

Taking the stand in his own defense late in the day James categorically denied the charges preferred in behalf of the young girl. The alleged victim testified he dragged her out of the one-room house she occupied with her foster mother, took her to a ditch and attacked her. The foster mother also pointed to James as the man who entered the house.

The State presented witnesses who testified to hearing screams, and seeing policemen searching the vicinity on the night of the purported incident. The defense, in rebuttal, brought in several who said they heard no commotion and saw the child the next day playing and apparently unharmed.

11-22-44

Witnesses in the drew case, including Mrs. Frank Thomalla, of Decatur, Ill., the slain girl's mother, have been summoned but were excused, pending formal call of that case. Mrs. Thomalla was in the courtroom briefly.

Mrs. Drew was killed last June. Her nude body was found in a suburban ditch some 24 hours after she had left Maxwell Field, where she had visited her aviation cadet husband.

Change Death Sentences of 5

Afro American
Baltimore, Md. 6-3-44

MacArthur Orders Life for GI's, Seaman

RAPE CHARGED

Girl Was Hitch-Hiking from Drinking Party

NEW YORK — The sentences of death by hanging imposed on four soldiers and a merchant seaman, convicted for rape of a white Red Cross worker in Australia, have been commuted to life imprisonment by General Douglas MacArthur.

Announcement came from General MacArthur's headquarters in reply to a cablegram sent by the NAACP asking permission to file a brief appealing from the sentences.

6-3-44

Case to Review Board

"Prior to receipt of your message, General MacArthur had carefully reviewed and adjusted the case," the reply cable said. "He confirmed the findings and sentence but commuted the latter to life imprisonment.

"The case, in accordance with law, is now being finally checked for legal sufficiency by Board of Review."

Appeal Still Planned

Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, said that as soon as the record in the case arrives from Australia and appeal brief will be prepared by the NAACP, which has cabled once more for permission to file it even though the sentences have been commuted.

The five men were accused of criminally attacking the white woman on the night of January 10 after she had hailed their truck. She admitted she had been on a drinking party.

6-3-44

The four soldiers testified that they had had relations with her but that she was willing and cooperative. The merchant seaman refused to take the stand.

Three Guards Given Life

AFRI-AMERICAN
Balt. Md.

War Dept. Softens Court Martial

5-27-44

RAPE CHARGED

Men Gave Diseased Girl $2, They Said

WASHINGTON

Three 367th Infantry soldiers sentenced to death by an Army court martial for rape of a white girl with two venereal diseases will serve life imprisonment instead.

Announcement came from the War Department which took the case for retrial after the U.S. Supreme Court held that a Federal District Judge had unproperly condemned the boys to death.

The men, Pvts. Richard P. Adams, Columbus, Ohio; John W. Bordenave, New Orleans, and Lawrence Mitchell, Baldwin, Mich. The white girl: Hattie R. Mason.

The original authority of the Federal Court which sentenced the three soldiers to death last July was challenged in an appeal by the NAACP counsel to the U.S. Supreme Court which ruled that the court did not have jurisdiction. Subsequently the men faced a court martial and were again convicted and sentenced.

The case was then carried by the NAACP to the Board of Review of the Office of the Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Army which this week ruled that the death sentences be commuted.

The soldiers were on guard duty at Camp Claiborne on the night of May 9, 1942. The practice was to patrol the outskirts of the camp and to uncover couples engaged in fornication in this forbidden area.

They came upon the Mason girl, a guest house-waitress, in the arms of Pvt. George Schuler (white) asleep under a blanket in a field at 2 a.m. The three men put the couple in their patrol jeep, carried Schuler to camp and put him out.

Then they carried the girl near-

7151

to the authorities, attack, found her perfectly com-
Ohio and worked as posed and that her body showed
the camp guest no bruises, abrasions, scratches
or other evidences of an attack,
but that she did have an active,
although chronic, case of gonor-
Dr. E. J. McGuffin, rhea and couldn't conceive and
obstetrician and an give birth to a child if she wanted
ereal diseases, testi- to.
examined the Mason

Gomorrhea and .... 2 Venereal Diseases

At the trial, Dr. [illegible] alleged rape to the
(She is from Ohio
a waitress at the
house.)

$2 and No Outcry

In the field they used [illegible] fied that she did not seem much disturbed about the whole business, and on the next day she showed no outcry during lay ness, six-mile ride or later. this long, and went to her tent and went to sleep. And her roommate testified

Dr. McGuffin said the Mason girl told him she had been married and divorced and asked him why she had been unable to have a child. He said he told her she couldn't because of the gonorrhea and another venereal disease.

The court held that even a prostitute with a venereal disease can be raped and is entitled to protection. No evidence showed the Mason girl a prostitute. The soldier with whom she lay in the field until 2 a.m. has since married her.

Negro Is Given Death Sentence On Charge Of Carnal Knowledge

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — (AP) — Worley James, 32-year-old Negro, who heard a jury order the death sentence imposed against him Tuesday night, may not stand trial during the current term of court on charges of slaying Mrs. Lynn C. Drew, 19-year-old bride.

A jury returned a death verdict last night in an unrelated capital case, and Solicitor Temple Seibels said another such case would be called against the Negro Wednesday.

James was charged with carnal knowledge of a 10-year-old Negro girl in the case completed Tuesday night and with criminal attack of a 23-year-old woman of his own race in the case set Wednesday.

* * *

SEIBELS DECLARED THAT, although James also was scheduled to stand trial on the slaying charge, selection of juries for the attack proceedings and other cases docketed Wednesday should exhaust the present slate of veniremen, making it necessary to pass the case until January.

The jury deliberating the carnal knowledge case returned with its verdict of death in the electric chair after four hours and 15 minutes of debate. John Sankey, one of the court appointed defense attorneys, said he "couldn't say immediately" whether an appeal would be taken.

Seibels, in the state's argument to the jury, had demanded the death penalty, declaring he had "rather let (James) straight out than give him an mollycoddle sentence like a life sentence."

* * *

JAMES, ON THE STAND in his own behalf, denied molesting the Negro child. He said he lived in the vicinity several weeks after the purported offense and saw the child and her foster mother almost daily.

The girl testified James was the man who dragged her from her home and assaulted her in a nearby ditch. Her foster mother also identified James as the attacker.

Mrs. Frank Thomalla of Decatur, Ill., mother of the slain Mrs. Drew, was summoned as a witness in the slaying case.

Mrs. Drew, wife of an Army Air Forces flying cadet, was killed last June and her nude body found in a suburban drainage ditch.

GETS 20 YEARS FOR RAPE TRY

Henry Bourgeois, 20, of 12 Dodds Place, was sentenced to serve 20 years in the state penitentiary on a charge of attempted criminal attack last Monday.

Maximum penalty was imposed on Bourgeois by Judge Fred W. Oser in criminal district court for attempted criminal attack on a 13-year-old girl in the uptown section of the city on the night of August 29.

Army hangs two rapists

PARIS — Two Negro soldiers convicted by a court martial of rape were hanged recently in France, the Army revealed this week. Pvt. Ross W. Anderson, of Jeffersonville, Ind., and James B. Saunders, Pocalet, S. C., were the men condemned and hanged. The judgment was reviewed and confirmed by Gen. Eisenhower.

5 Doomed Men Given Clemency By Macarthur

Commutes Soldiers' Death Sentences to Life Imprisonment

NEW YORK--Four American Negro soldiers and a merchant seamen sentenced to hang after conviction on a rape charge in Australia, were saved from death by Gen. Douglas MacArthur when he commuted their sentences to life imprisonment, it was learned here this week.

Following the receipt of a letter from the law firm of O'Sullivan and Ruddy in Townsville, Australia, the NAACP sent a cable gram to General MacArthur asking permission to file a brief appealing from the sentences. In reply to Walter White's cablegram MacArthur's headquarters cabled:

"Prior to receipt of your message General MacArthur had carefully reviewed and adjusted the case. He confirmed the findings and sentence but commuted the latter to life imprisonment. The case, in accordance with law, is now being finally checked for legal sufficiency by Board of Review."

Thrugood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, said that as soon as the record in the case arrives from Australia an appeal brief will be prepared by the NAACP, which has cabled once more for permission to file it even though the sentences have been commuted to life in prison.

The five men, Lazzard, Johnson, Seymour, Nelson and Davis, were accused of criminally attacking a white American Red Cross worker on the night of January 10, 1944, after she had hiled their truck for a hitch-hike ride back to her quarters. She admitted she had been on a drinking party but had become angry with some members of it and had started out for home. She said that after the men had taken her on a long ride, they dragged her out of the truck and successively assaulted her. Four men testified that they had had relations with her but that she was willing and cooperative. The fifth defendant, Nelson, the merchant seamen, refused to take the stand.

Defender--Chicago, Ill. 6-3-44

7150

Two Ala. whites Fined $500
In Rape of Girl, 14

BY JOHN LeFLORE

EVERGREEN, Ala.--Justice triumphed after a fashion this week when historic precedents were broken in this deep South town and two white men were fined $500 for raping a 14-year-old Negro school girl.

Moving swiftly and quietly just before the state NAACP was ready to file a request for Department of Justice action, a Conecuh county all-white jury brought in a "guilty" verdict against the two whites, who gladly paid fines.

Final trial of the long pending case came almost a half year after the two defendants committed the crime, punishable by death in this state if a Negro is the guilty one.

Victim of the attack was 14-year old Rosie Mae Gill, whose father brought charges against James Lloyd Eubanks, 42, an army ordance inspector and Leon Hughey, 29 a lumber company bookkeeper.

They both arrested last week after the case had dragged for months. Action by Sheriff W. A. Moore came after their indictment by a grand jury for carnally dinwing the 14-year-old girl.

Tried before Circuit Judge S. W. Hare on Wednesday, the two defendants were successful in having the charges changed to assault and battery and escaping with a $500 fine each, which they paid immediately.

In court the young gril told how the two whites, posing as police officers, had stopped her, 12-year-old Annie May Mobley and a 17-year-old Negro youth on a Sunday evening while the three were returning from the local church.

The two men told them they had no business being out at 11 o'clock in the evening. They ordered the boy to go home and then told the two girls to enter their car, claiming they were taking them to the sheriffs office

DRIVE TO WOODS

Instead they drove out of town four miles and stopped in a wooded area. One of the men dragged the 14-year-old girl into the woods and raped her while the other waited in the car with the younger girl.

When the two returned from the woods the other man took Rosie back into the trees and also assaulted her.

They then drove the Negro girls back to town. The next day their father filed a complaint with the sheriff, who went out to the scene of the crime and collected evidence. However, no action was taken in the case until the NAACP threatened to ask the federal government ot intervene. The short court trial and moderate fines were then announced.

BUTCHER GETS JAIL

In another similar case last week in Little Rock, Ark., a white butcher was fined $100 and costs plus 30 days in jail for contributing to the delinquency of a 14-year-old Negro girl. He was A. N. Larlson, who was caught locked in his store after business hours, with the girl. He was seized by police officers while an angry and curious crowd surrounded the store.

The girl admitted this was not her first "date" with the white butcher, and that on each of the other occasion she had been given $1 pay. Finally when passers-by saw the man bluntly slip the child into the store after business hours and lock the door, curiosity was aroused.

The threatening crowd became so angry that when several police officers arrived on the scene they found it necessary to contact headquarters for re-enforcements who assisted in scattering the people.

On Tuesday morning a court fined Larlson $100 and $6.90 cost. The man was given 30 days for contributing to juvenile delinquency and fined $6.90 on charges of immorality. Juvenile officials took over the girl.

Defender--Chicago, Ill. 12-9-44

37h-1944 California

7152

Capt Wilkinson Gets 30 Years for Rape

World-Telegram-Newyork, N.Y.
6-14-44

By GENE FRIEDMAN,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

SANTA ANA, Cal., June 14.—Capt. Morrison J. Wilkinson, Jr., 26-year-old fighter pilot who saw duty in China today was under sentence of dishonorable discharge from the army and 30 years imprisonment at hard labor after a 10-man court-martial board found him guilty of four sex offenses, bigamy and theft.

The debonair flier was acquitted of two charges of forcible rape, conviction on either of which carried mandatory sentence of life imprisonment or execution.

He was convicted of statutory rape and assault against Caprice Capron, 17, a dancer he met at a Hollywood party; assault with intent to commit rape against Dean Stull, 16-year-old dancer at Florentine Gardens, another Hollywood nightspot, and an offense involving an unidentified "Miss X."

6-14-44

The court-martial board also found him guilty of bigamously marrying Mrs. Lawrence T. Murphy before he received a final divorce from Mrs. Margaret Gonzales Wilkinson and of stealing a gold wrist watch from the latter.

The verdict and sentence was returned after an hour and three-quarters deliberation.

[Wilkinson was quoted by the Associated Press as saying after learning the verdict:

["Pretty severe, I think, for a slight indiscretion."]

The verdicts and sentence automatically will be reviewed by the Army, the Secretary of War and the President.

7153

Negro Soldiers To Die For Attack In England

Two American Army privates, both Negroes, one of them Pvt. Willie W. Smith, 21, of 37 Theta Avenue, Birmingham, were sentenced in London by a U. S. Army court-martial Saturday to be hanged for criminal assault on a 16-year-old English girl April 4, near the base in England where they are stationed.

The other Negro was identified by The Associated Press as Pvt. Eliga Brinson, 25, of Tallahassee, Fla.

The two Negroes pleaded innocent. No date was set for their execution.

Two Negro Soldiers Executed In London

LONDON, Aug. 11.—(AP)—Two negro privates, Willie Smith, 21, Birmingham, Ala., and Eliga Brinson, 25, Tallahassee, Fla., were hanged today for the criminal assault on a 16-year-old girl, American Army Headquarters announced.

They were convicted by a court martial April 29 following the assault on the English girl near their base. Their sentence was reviewed and confirmed by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Soldier Hanged In London for Rape

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Oct. 12.—Pvt. Madison Thomas of Kreiz Springs, La., was hanged today after being convicted by a U. S. Army court-martial for rape. The sentence was reviewed and confirmed by Gen. Eisenhower.

7154

16-Year-Old Negro Boy Sentenced to Die Has 2 Brothers in Uncle Sam's Uniform

Daily Worker — New York, N.Y.

By A. W. TRAINOR 9-27-44

JACKSONVILLE, Sept. 26.—The youngest of the three Negro defendants in the Quincy "rape" case, 16-year-old James Davis, was born Aug. 16, 1928, at Callahan, 18 miles north of here.

His father, James, 61 and an invalid, runs a small "sweets" shop while his mother, Sarah, 51, keeps house and works during the summer as a domestic. She picks beans in winter in the Belle Glade area.

Sheriff Walter Clark proyides slave labor in this area through the arrest of Negroes on "vagrancy" charges giving them the alternative of picking beans for large planters or going to jail. He is now under federal charges for peonage.

Jimmy's eldest brother, Dorsey, 27, is fighting with the United States Army in New Guinea. His brother Leslie, 23, is with the U. S. Army in India. Isaiah, 18, is about to be inducted. The husband of Jimmy's sister Pauline is serving in the Navy in the Pacific. Retha, his eldest sister, is wife of a Jacksonville longshoreman. Freddy, 11, goes to school. 9-27-44

State highway patrolmen and county officers, under orders of Gov. Spessard L. Holland, encountered the Ku Klux Klan and other night-riders several times Wednesday night, Aug. 23. Mobs were roaming the highways looking for Jimmy and two other youths accused by some unknown woman of "rape." Klan activities so incited the backward farm-region about Quincy by Aug. 26 that the **Florida Times Union** reported plans to hold the trial in Gainsville, 175 miles away.

It was there that Jimmy Davis, Fred Lane, 19, and James Williams, 26, were "tried," found guilty and sentenced to death, on Aug. 31. The whole procedure took 80 minutes. 9-27-44

Meanwhile the Florida Press and Educational League began mobilizing sentiment against lynch-incitement, legal or extra-legal. The International Labor Defense, of which Representative Vito Marcantonio is president; the Southern Negro Youth Congress, the Jacksonville (Negro) Chamber of Commerce, headed by Elbert Koelman; local trade unions, and other organizations interested themselves in the case.

ATTORNEYS WITHDRAW

Louis Burnham, president of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, represented it and the ILD in consultation with the parents in their efforts to procure counsel. The court-appointed attorneys had withdrawn from the case.

Bradford G. Williams, a Lakeland, Fla., attorney, was retained by the parents, in cooperation with the ILD but has also withdrawn from the case. 9-27-44

At sunset on Friday, Sept. 15, a car with a Tallahassee license drove up to the Davis home. Four men, one of whom professed to be a judge, demanded that Mrs. Davis sign a paper declaring that she did not wish to retain a lawyer. She refused.

One of the men said she didn't have to sign " if she don't want to." The "judge" said she didn't have to sign and that all she had to do was die. When her daughter asked what he meant, he said that "everybody's got to die."

The family since then has been receiving threatening letters.

A flood of wires to the Governor continues to protest against either a legal or an extra-legal lynching. The ILD, meanwhile, has sent its own attorney to Florida.

Defense appeal to the Florida Supreme Court for a genuine trial automatically stayed the execution, originally set for Sept. 18. Attorney General Watson's petition to the Supreme Court not to grant defense appeal was taken under advisement Sept. 25. 9-27-44

7155

3 Negroes To Die For Attack On Girl

Advertiser — Montgomery, Ala.
8-1-44

GAINESVILLE, FLA., Aug. 31 —(U.P.)—Three negroes today were given death sentences for criminal assault upon a young Army wife, an act which Circuit Judge W. May Walker described as one of the "most gruesome, terrible and unthinkable" crimes of his experience.

James Davis, 16, Freddie Lee Lane, 20, and James C. Williams, 26, pleaded guilty and will be sent to the electric chair. Immediately after the two-hour trial they were returned to Raiford prison in armored cars, under heavy guard. There was no indication of violence here.

A previously scheduled trial in Quincy was cancelled when residents refused the party of accused men and guards permission to cross the Gadsden County line. Gov. Spessard L. Holland ordered the change of venue to Alachua County to avoid bloodshed.

"Certainly," said Judge Walker, "mercy would be compatible with my theory of justice." 8-1-44

He had heard the trio admit the crime, which they claimed was unplanned. They said they intended only to steal the automobile driven by the 20-year old wife of a sergeant. The woman victim, recovered from gunshot wounds suffered during the attack, appeared to identify her assailants.

Hinton

"There Was A Burst Of Applause"

Journal + Guide — Norfolk, Va.

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—Three Florida Negroes were condemned to death by electrocution after admitting in militia-guarded Circuit Court that they raped a 22-year-old white woman at gun point. 9-16-44

Verdict of death was announced in the street by loudspeaker to some 300 spectators, barred from the courthouse by the military. There was a burst of applause. Col. E. D. Vestal, militia commander, said: "They will be electrocuted."—News Item

YOU READ these and other details of this story last week; how the three accused pleaded guilty to the charges, how a formal trial was not required under Florida law, but only the testimony of prosecution witnesses in order to determine whether the court should impose the extreme penalty or temper justice with mercy and sentence the hapless trio to imprisonment for life. You recall, too, that the story set forth that the identity of the complaining witness was also protected by Florida law.

"There was a burst of applause." The crowd cheered as the three confessed rapists were condemned to death. The situation might have been touched with humor, might even have been ludicrous, had it not been so filled with all the elements of a great tragedy. That was in Gainesville, Florida, where the trial was finally staged after all attempts to hold it in Quincy, just 160 miles away, had been several times thwarted by armed mobs operating along roads leading into the city and into Gadsden county.

MR. HINTON

PRISONERS THREATENED WITH LYNCHING

You no doubt recall how open threats of lynching were made against the defendants; how leaders of both races implored Gov. Spessard L. Holland to take steps to prevent mob violence; how the preliminary hearing was held while the accused were kept in the Florida state prison at Raiford; how Negro residents of the community were warned by armed white hoodlums, who openly paraded the streets, to stay inside their homes and to close their places of business; and finally, how pictures of the three prisoners were peddled on the streets of Quincy for ten cents. A virtual Roman holiday.

These are the things you will probably recall only faintly. But you will always remember that "there was a burst of applause," that the crowd cheered as three men were condemned to die. 9-16-44

There were crowds which cheered in other places too. There were, for instance, crowds in every village, in every hamlet, in every town, in every city, in every one of the Allied Nations who cheered as they received news of the virtual collapse of the once mighty Nazi war machine now in mad retreat along the highway of despair and bitter defeat where only five years ago it started out on the brightly-beckoning primrose path of conquest and certain victory.

In Southern France the 600,000 inhabitants of Lyon cheered too, as the republic's fourth largest city was liberated by Allied armored might. They cheered with the realization that the Battle of France had ended; that the Battle of Germany had begun.

ARTILLERY OUTFIT CHEERED 9-16-44

In the Moselle Valley of France an American reconnaissance patrol penetrating behind German lines, cheered mightily at a few seconds past 3:45 p.m., on Sept. 2, with the knowledge that it was the first American armed unit to reach the German border in World War II.

Somewhere in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations, members of an artillery outfit of the famed 92nd Division operating with the Fifth Army cheered as they lobbed shells at Nazi positions across the Arno River from a battery of 105 mm. howitzers. 9-16-44

Somewhere in Italy members of the Fighter Group commanded by Col. B. O. Davis Jr., cheered the destruction of 83 Nazi planes on the ground in a single operation by their fellow fighter pilots somewhere in Roumania. And in the Southwest Pacific high-ranking Army officers continued to cheer the exploits of fighting men of the 93rd Infantry Division in their clashes with Emperor Hirohito's Nipponese Sons of Heaven.

IN SPITE OF PROTESTS

Here at home 15,000,000 Negro Americans cheered the decision of the War Department to stand by its non-segregation order in Army posts despite vigorous protests from southerners in high places, including the governors of at least two states and the entire southern delegation in the Congress of the United States. 9-16-44

But in Gainesville, Fla., USA, with the announcement that three confessed rapists must expiate their crimes with their lives, "there was a burst of applause." It might easily have been in another world entirely.

—ALBERT L. HINTON

Appeal Florida 'Rape' Verdict

Daily Worker — New York, N.Y.

By EUGENE GORDON

Spessard L. Holland, governor of Florida, denies that notice of an appeal for a new trial "automatically" gives a 60-day stay of execution to three Negro defendants.

The defendants are James Williams, 26, Fred Lane, 19, and James Davis, 16, "tried" and convicted (in 30 minutes) of "raping" and shooting a white woman. 9-16-44

Appeal for a new trial was filed yesterday by Bradford Williams, Lakeland, Fla., attorney retained by the defendants' parents in cooperation with the International Labor Defense and local trade unions. Louis Burnham, secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, represented the congress and the ILD.

Gov. Holland told A. W. Trainor, Daily Worker corerspondent, that the defendants were not entitled to a stay of execution, though the filing of an appeal customarily stays execution for 60 days. He said that only an order by the court or by himself could specifically stay it.

THE "LEGAL" WAY 9-15-44

Florida's Supreme Court had not received the appeal when Gov. Holland made his statement.

Gov. Holland wants his lynching all dressed up in legal procedure on Sept. 18.

Let us be equally frank on the matter.

BARBARIC SYSTEM

Gov. Holland, State Attorney General Tom Watson, and Circuit Court Judge W. May Walker are not interested in protecting "Southern womanhood," the usual excuse for lynching. **They are interested in protecting the barbaric system by which Negroes are kept "in their place."**

Lynching, legal and extra-legal, is an essential part of that system. 9-15-44

We can no longer tolerate laws, written or unwritten, which decree death merely for so-called "rape." No other civilized country has such laws. The cry of "rape," a crime almost impossible to prove under most favorable of court conditions, become a deadly weapon used—as it often is—by unscrupulous or cowardly persons.

A Dirtier Stain

Daily Worker — New York, N.Y.

THREE YOUTHS—James Davis, 16, Freddie Lane, 19 and James Williams, 26—were lynched on schedule in full accordance with the law in Florida's Raiford State Prison early yesterday. Yes, "rape." Is it hardly necessary to add that the victims were black?

It is necessary, however, to commend Governor Spessard L. Holland and State Attorney General Tom Watson for sparing Florida the "stain" of a mob lynching.

We only wonder whether they consider the stain of mob-lynching less dirty than the stain now on Florida's hands. 10-10-44

The old slave South dies slowly, but it dies! This lynching is symbolic of the slave South's desperate hold on the past. The growing and lusty progressive movement is displacing reaction there. It was the influence of this movement which forced the Governor to prevent extra legal lynching. The day is near when it will force him to prevent legal lynching.

3 Fla. Negroes Electrocuted

Daily Worker — New York, N.Y.

Yesterday morning Florida kept faith with the mob to whom Col. E. D. Vestal, militia commander, pledged on Aug. 31: "They will be electrocuted." 9-16-44

James Davis, 16, Freddy Lee Lane, 19, and James Williams, 26, were electrocuted in the Raiford State Prison. They had been tried and convicted of "rape" and sentenced to death, all within 30 minutes on the last day of August.

The "trial" was held without a jury, which is permitted under Florida law where there has been a confession.

The courtroom was closed to all but about 20 chosen persons. No Negroes other than the defendants were in the courtroom, and Negro leaders were told by the sheriff to warn their people to stay off the streets. 10-10-44

Governor Holland set the week of Sept. 18 as the date of execution.

On Sept. 14 a Florida attorney was retained by the defendants, and the International Labor Defense. He filed an appeal in Gainesville from the death sentences.

Tom Watson, Attorney General of Florida, filed a motion to dismiss this appeal on the grounds that any appeal in this case was "frivolous."

Argument of Watson's motion was set for Sept. 25 in Tallahassee.

In the meantime, Klan meetings were held near Tallahassee and in other cities, after which it is understood that any attorney defending the boys would suffer serious consequences.

Subsequently the attorney who filed the appeal withdrew from the case.

When Watson's motion to dismiss the appeal was heard by the Florida Supreme Court on Sept. 25, no lawyer had been found who was ready to represent the defendants in court and withstand the pressure of the Klan. 10-10-44

In the absence of any defense attorney, Mary Kogge, a young white girl, appealed to the Supreme Court in behalf of the Florida Committee for the Preservation of Legal Rights, to deny the motion to dismiss the appeal, and to postpone consideration of the motion until counsel could be found who would defend the Gainsville boys in court.

The Supreme Court dismissed the appeal.

Florida Rapists Denied Stay Of Electrocutions

Courier Journal — Louisville, Ky. 10-7-44

Tallahassee, Fla., Oct. 6 (AP)—A last-minute attempt to stop the electrocutions of three Negroes for the confessed raping of a young white woman failed today when the Florida Supreme Court denied six separate motions presented to it on behalf of the men.

The executions have been set for 9 a.m. Monday in the State Prison at Raiford. The Negroes are Freddie Lee Lane, James Davis and James C. Williams.

The basis of all the petitions was a series of affidavits in which the Negroes claimed they made their confessions after being threatened and tortured.

Florida 'Legally' Kills 3 Negro Farm Boys

The Worker — New York, N.Y. 10-15-44

James Davis, Freddy Lee Lane, and James Williams, Negro farm boys, were executed by the state of Florida early last Monday morning for having "raped" a young white woman last summer.

The "trial" at which they were found guilty and convicted occupied exactly 30 minutes of Aug. 31.

Their counsel, two young white lawyers appointed by the court, had neither the time nor inclination to confer with the defendants. They urged the youths to plead guilty, because, if they did not, they would receive no mercy.

SIGNED IN TERROR

So James Davis, 16, Freddy Lane, 19, and James Williams, 29, signed readymade "confessions"—they had neither read the "confessions" nor heard them read—and were extended the mercy of being saved from lynching by the mob.

The state of Florida jealously lynched them itself. 10-16-44

Gov. Spessard L. Holland and State Attorney General J. Tom Watson blocked every move to get the youths a genuine trial. The Governor first tried to set the execution date earlier than the law allowed. His Attorney General cautioned that he could not do that and named the earliest date at which the killing could legally take place.

The court-appointed counsel had withdrawn, their natural distaste for their task heightened by Ku Klux Klan threats. The International Labor Defense sent Samuel Neuburger to investigate this situation in which no lawyer dared come forward for the defense of the Negro youths.

Mary Kogge, a young white woman shipyard employe, made a final plea in the State Supreme Court. Asserting that she appeared as a citizen of the state, she read a statement opposing Florida's move to dismiss an appeal from the youth's conviction.

The Florida Times Union reported: 10-15-44

"Although Mrs. Kogge's connection with the Legal Rights Committee was not seated before the court, E. D. Koelman, of Jacksonville, chairman of the group, said later she had been assigned to appear 'because nowhere in the whole state of Florida could we find a lawyer willing to do it.'"

The Attorney General declared that all appeals for delay were "frivolous."

Governor Holland, as soon as he legally could, set the date of execution for the week of Oct. 9. The youths were killed by the state at 9 that morning.

Florida newspapers revealed, after the legal lynching, that protests had flooded the Governor's desk from all parts of the United States. 10-15-44

The Jacksonville Journal reported, on the afternoon of the legal lynching.

Three Executed For Fla. Attack

Daily World — New York, N.Y. 10-11-44

RAIFORD, Fla. — (S N S) — Three Negroes paid with their lives Monday in the State Prison here for attack and shooting of a young woman in the West Florida section several months ago.

Those executed were James Williams, 26; Freddie Lane, 20, and James Davis, 16. The latter was the youngest person to die in Florida's chair since it was placed in use in 24. The three men died within a 36-minute period. Not any of them made statements.

The father of the victim was present for the execution, but the woman victim and her husband, an Army officer, were not present.

Four women, three of them nurses at the prison, also saw the execution. The fourth woman was the wife of the State High-

Negroes Who Die Today Tell of Torture Confessions

Daily Worker — New York, N.Y. 10-9-44

By EUGENE GORDON

We have ... made by the t... Gainesville. Last minute attempts to save the three men from the death chair were made 1st Friday when ... presented to the State Supreme Court by William S. Robinson, Jacksonville lawyer, but the court overruled all of them.

... Patrolman who arrested the three men. The sheriff of Gadsden county, where the men were arrested, was not present.

In Gainesville, August 31, the three pleaded guilty before Circuit Judge Walker, of Tallahassee. The death penalties were imposed the same day. Because of what officials termed the danger of "heavy bloodshed" the court proceedings had been transferred from Quincy

Williams, 26, confirm what many persons feared; their "confessions were obtained by the most brutal Nazi-like tortures.

Unless a last-minute stay results from higher court action or is granted by Governor Spessard L. Holland the youths will have been legally lynched even while this story is being written. I say **legally lynched,** because the "trial" at which they were found guilty on the forced "confessions" lasted just 80 minutes.

Here are some excerpts from 16-year-old Jimmy Davis' statement to attorneys. It is typical. After telling of continuous beatings by road patrolmen, he was asked:-

Q.—Did they beat you when they brought you back?

A.—Yes, sir. They beat me nearly all the way back here, even after I was sentenced. They put some kind of stuff in my mouth.

Q.—What kind of stuff did they put in your mouth?

A.—I don't know. Some ammonia, or something, that peeled my lips. They put their feet on my head and mashed my head down between my legs and stuck cigarettes in my hands and in my ears.

Q.—Were the cigarettes lighted?

A.—Yes, sir, lighted cigarettes, and they kicked me in my side. When we was coming back up here after the trial some soldiers beat me up with pistols.

Q.—Did they ever say anything about making a confesison?

A.—Yes, sir. They told me that if I didn't tell them the truth they would kill me. One of them said he had always wanted to kill a "nigger."

The attorney asked James Williams, oldest of the defendants, whether he had signed a confession. He answered:

"I signed something. I don't know what it was. I can't read or write and they didn't read it to me. They had it written when I got in there and they made me sign it."

Thus Gov. Holland saves Florida's fair name from the "stain" he said would besmirch it if the youths were lynched. It is clear, however, that the Governor has his own queer ideas of what constitutes a lynching.

Woman Asks Negro Rapists Get Appeal

Florida Lawyers Won't Defend Trio

9-26-44

Tallahassee, Fla., Sept. 25 (AP)—A young white woman representing the Florida Committee for Preservation of Legal Rights today made a unique plea in Supreme Court for three Negroes who are under death sentence for the confessed rape of a white woman near Chattahoochee.

Mrs. Mary Kogge, Tampa shipyard employe who said she appeared as a citizen of the state, was permitted to read the court a statement opposing the State's move to dismiss an appeal from the Negroes' convictions.

Lawyers Refuse Case.

E. D. Koelman of Jacksonville, chairman of the legal rights group, said Mrs. Kogge had been assigned to appear because "nowhere in the whole state of Florida could we find a lawyer willing to do it." 9-26-44

"We are interested in this case in the nature of the appeal only," he said. "Fair play and justice are what we desire. The matter of guilt or innocence does not enter into it."

The Negroes were represented by court-appointed attorneys in the Gainesville Circuit Court proceedings which resulted in the death sentences. Later, Bradford G. Williams, Lakeland attorney, filed an appeal for them and then asked the court for permission to withdraw as counsel, but since the court has not acted on his withdrawal petition, he is still their attorney. He filed a memorandum opposing the motion for dismissal.

Trial Was Transferred.

Mrs. Kogge recalled in her statement that the trial of the three Negroes was transferred from Quincy to Gainesville when State officers told the court they could not take the defendants to Quincy without risk of bloodshed. 9-26-44

"It seems to us," she said, "that elementary observance of the constitutional requirements and fundamental principles demanded that the hearings be delayed until the 'prejudicial air' had been clarified."

Florida Executes 3 Negroes For Rape

Courier-Journal 10-12-44

RAIFORD, Fla.—Three Negroes paid with their lives Monday, in the electric chair at the state prison here, for the raping and shooting of a 22-year-old white woman.

Those executed were James Williams, 26, Freddie Lane, 19, and James Davis, 16, the latter being the youngest to die in the electric chair since it was placed into use in 1924.

The victim told the court that the trio attacked her six times after forcing her from her automobile between Quincy and Chattahoochee, July 30.

After the attacks the victim was shot in the head and left in a woods. She managed to make her way to the road to find help.

'Must Die'—Says Judge

Daily Worker—New York

JACKSONVILLE, Oct. 8.—Federal Judge Louis Strum late Saturday denied relief in the case of the three Quincy defendants whose execution is scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday, Oct. 9, at Raiford State Prison. The defendants, James Davis, 16, Freddie Lee Lane, 19, and James C. Williams, 26, all Negroes, were sentenced for "rape" of a white woman. They allegedly confessed 10-9-44

Judge Prum, sitting in Jacksonville, denied a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, submitted by Attorney W. H. Robinson, on grounds that the petitioners had "not exhausted remedies in the Florida state courts." The attorney endeavored to show that "the confessions" were procured through beatings and torture.

Though it is expected that nothing short of a last-minute stay by the U. S. Supreme Court can halt the executions, Robinson today appeared in the 5th U. S. Circuit Court, Atlanta, in an effort to exhaust every remedy for the petitioners. 10-9-44

Governor Spessard L. Holland refuses to stay the executions.

Fla. Execution Set for Oct. 9

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. 10-2-44

JACKSONVILLE, Oct. 1.—Execution of the three Negro youths in the Quincy "rape" case was set yesterday by Gov. Spessard L. Holland for the week of Oct. 9, the State Supreme Court having dismissed their appeal for a "new trial." 10-2-44

The defendants, James Davis, 16, Freddie Lane, 19, and James Williams, 26, were originally "tried," convicted and sentenced all in the space of 80 minutes in a Ganisville, Fla., court, after they had been removed from Quincy, scene of the alleged crime, for safe keeping. The "trial" was held under such pressure of lynch threats that Gov. Holland appeased the mob by promising speedy legal execution of the youths.

State Attorney General J. Tom Watson yesterday requested the Governor, following court dismissal of the "fair trial plea, to set the execution date for Oct. 1." It was found, however, that the law allowed defendants an additional week. 10-2-44

Many organizations, including the International Labor Defense, the Florida Committee for the Preservation of Legal Rights, the Negro Chamber of Commerce, and CIO and other unions made a united fight to procure a real trial for the youths. The Florida Committee for the Preservation of Legal Rights, in arguing before the State Supreme Court last week that execution be stayed pending appeal for a genuine trial, raised grave doubts as to the authenticity of the alleged confession of the three defendants.

3 Negroes Electrocuted In Florida for Rape

Courier Journal—Louisville, Ky. 10-10-44

Raiford, Fla., Oct. 9 (AP)—Despite last-minute efforts to delay the execution three Negroes who admitted raping and shooting a young white woman, the wife of an Army bombardier, died in the electric chair in the State Prison here today.

37h-1944

Georgia

7165

CHENEY GETS TWO YEARS IN ATTACK CONVICTION

Daily World-Atlanta, Ga.

6-24-44

A jury sitting in Superior Court of Fulton from Tuesday noon through Friday listening to evidence in the trial of John Cheney, 22-year-old Atlantan of 564 Hollis Street, SW, up for his life, returned a verdict of guilty but made a recommendation for mercy and fixed his punishment at two years. The jury remained out for an hour and a half, returning with the verdict shortly after dinner.

Cheney was charged with criminally assaulting a 15-year-old girl on Saturday night, May 27 in an alley near Wells and Humphries streets, SW, and would have faced death in the electric chair had not the jury made the mercy recommendation. He is married and was living with his wife at the time of the alleged assault which was bluntly denied by the defendant from the witness stand.

In making his argument before the jury J. R. Parham, assistant solicitor general demanded the extreme penalty for Cheney, who was referred to as a coldblooded rapist. He stated that the findings of the jury should not be less than a life term in prison.

In making his brilliant plea to the jury, which took an hour and thirteen minutes, on behalf of his client which had a deal of damaging evidence piled up against him, Attorney L. F. Turner, contended that the identity may have been mistaken, and referred at intervals to "the good character of the defendant." After the jury verdict Mr. Turner made a motion for a new trial, but after due consideration, taking into the fact the lienency of the sentence, he withdrew it. 6-24-44

During the trial the state placed nine witnesses on the stand and the defense put up seven, including the defendant. On Friday morning arguments began with Mr. Turner opening up, followed by the state, then the charge to the jury by Judge Paul S. Etheridge, who presided.

Defense counsel for Slaton, who presented nearly 20 witnesses, those who were said to have been with him at the alleged time, several alibi and character witnesses, were Mrs. Sara C. M. Tolbert, former Superior Court Judge Gus Howell and Spurgeon Stonecypher, all who made brilliant presentations in behalf of their client.

MISTRIAL BEFORE

8-24-44

Slaton was charged with burglary and attempted rape on a white woman in a DeKalb Avenue home on the night of Thursday, May 25 at which time the defendant and a large number of witnesses swore that he was at the city auditorium attending a dance.

The defendant was tried in the same court on the same charges three weeks ago, but won a mistrial. At that time it was stated that a poll was taken which showed here were 10 jurors for acquittal and two for conviction.

8-24-44

At the trial this week the probable feature and unusual procedure was the fact that five arguments were heard before the all-white jury on Wednesday before the charge was made by the court. Opening was Mr. Parham, who was followed by Judge Howard, Mr. Stonecypher and Mrs. Torbert, and closing was Solicitor Andrews.

Defense counsel did not state after the verdict was read whether there would be a motion made for a new trial or not.

Slaton Is Found Guilty By Jury

Daily World-Atlanta, Ga.

8-24-44

An all-white jury Wednesday afternoon returned a verdict of guilty against John B. Slaton, 20 of 28 Boulevard, SE, who must serve from 3 to 5 years in a Georgia penitentiary or prison on charges of burglary and attempted rape, unless a motion for a new trial is granted.

Andrews to Make Another Bid For Life at Atlanta Hearing

Telegraph-Macon, Ga.

12-11-44

Sylvester Andrews, convicted Negro rapist, will make another bid for his life today when he appears before the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in a hearing set in Atlanta, Solicitor General Charles Garrett of the Bibb Superior Court disclosed yesterday.

Andrews, who twice escaped death in the electric chair on last minute appeals, has carried his case to the circuit court on a habeas corpus proceeding. A favorable ruling by the court would allow a new trial on the charge of raping a Negro woman, while the defendant will face resentencing to the electric chair if the court denies his plea.

12-11-44

The Negro, seized by city police at a time when a wave of attempted rapes terrorized the city, escaped the chair by a matter of hours last January when his attorney obtained a stay of execution from Federal Judge A. B. Lovett of Savannah after a similar plea had been denied here by Judge Bascom Deaver.

37h-1944

Kentucky

7157

Soldier-Rapist Gets 20 Years

Courier Journal 10-26-44
Louisville, Ky.
10-26-44

Pvt. James Walsh, 24, Paterson, N. J., was yesterday found guilty on a charge of rape and sentenced to twenty years in prison by a Criminal Court jury.

The Fort Knox soldier was charged with twice assaulting and raping Mrs. Clara Dale, 33, of 4404 Stoltz, on September 23. Mrs. Dale testified that Walsh "began annoying" her at a downtown bar and when she called a taxi to go home Walsh also got in the cab against her wishes.

The cab driver, W. A. Sanders, 43, of 841 S. 2d, later called police police, who arrested Walsh at Mrs. Dale's home. Officers testified that Walsh resisted arrest and threatened to kill them.

Louisiana

7158

3?h-1944

Death Sentences Of 3 Soldiers Changed To Life Imprisonment

Age — New York, N.Y.

6-12-44

Washington, D. C.—The death sentences of Richard P. Adams, John W. Bordenave and Lawrence Mitchell, three privates in the United States Army, who were sentenced to death on a charge of rape were commuted to life imprisonment on April 29 by President Roosevelt, it was learned here last week.

The three soldiers while on guard duty in a Louisiana camp were accused of having attacked a white woman whom they are said to have found in a compromising position with a white man within the camp grounds. They were first sentenced to death by a Louisiana state court, but NAACP lawyers took the case to the United States Supreme Court and had it thrown out on the ground that the state court had no jurisdiction. The men were then tried by court martial at Camp Maxey, Texas, where they were again sentenced to death largely because they had given numerous conflicting signed confessions to both civil and military authorities.

7159

Hinton, Convicted Of Rape Intent, To Die June 16

5-29-44

Annapolis, Md., May 28.—Governor O'Conor has signed the death warrant for John Hinton, Negro, convicted in the Dorchester County Circuit Court of assault with intent to rape, and designated Friday June 16 as the date of execution.

Hinton was convicted of the crime of assault upon a 15-year-old white girl in early March, the State had contended, on a farm in Somerset County. 5-29-44

Hinton had been granted a removal to the Dorchester County Court where he was subsequently convicted and sentenced to death, the Governor explained. Hinton is at present in the death house at the Penitentiary.

Death Sentence In Rape Upheld By Md. Court

Annapolis, Md., Dec. 13 (AP).—A death sentence imposed for rape in Prince Georges County was upheld today by the Maryland Court of Appeals. 12-14-44

Patrick Murphy, accused of raping a 33-year-old attendant at St. Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, in 1942, failed to win his appeal on a contention that the Prince Georges Circuit Court wrongly considered his criminal record in other jurisdictions before passing sentence. The record was not introduced in evidence.

The opinion set forth that he had based his appeal on the lower court's refusal to strike out judgment and sentence on the claim of "error happening between the verdict and the judgment, the alleged error being the consideration by the court, after the verdict but before passing sentence, of past criminal records of the traverser in foreign jurisdiction, which records were not offered in evidence during the trial."

The opinion, written by Judge Levin C. Bailey, found "no abuse" of the court's discretion in the "serious" duty of determining the sentence to be imposed. It added that no reversible error had been found in the record.

The woman testified at Murphy's trial that he raped her April 19, 1942, the date she first met him. After a party, he offered to drive her to the hospital, where she had to report for duty, she testified. But he drove her out of the way, stopped the car and attempted to make love to her.

She said she attempted to flee, that she stumbled, fell and was knocked unconscious, and that when she regained consciousness she found Murphy in the act. Murphy pleaded innocent, but did not take the stand, and no witnesses were produced in his behalf.

New Caledonia

7160

Army "Admits" Injustice In Caledonia Case

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga
4-4-44

10-Year, 8-Year Terms Replace Life Imprisonment

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(INPA)—The Army admitted, last week, in a left-handed way, that injustice had been done Pvts. Frank Fisher, Jr., and Edward L. Lowry, who had been sentenced to life imprisonment for rape in New Caledonia, in what has come to be referred to as the Army's "Scottsboro" case.

After a review of the case by Undersecretary of War, Robert Patterson, instigated by Judge William Hastie, former Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War, and Rep. Vito Marcantonio (ALP of N. Y.), the War Department announced that Mr. Patterson determined that the youths had a fair trial and that the sentences were supported by the evidence.

SENTENCES REDUCED

But in the same determination Mr. Patterson reduced the sentences from life imprisonment to 10 years for Fisher and 8 years for Lofry—"because of the circumstances surrounding the event and the record of the prisoners."

The entire case was challenged by Judge Hastie and Rep. Marcantonio in a brief submitted on behalf of the soldiers, which resulted in the rview. They cited glaring loopholes and contradictions in the evidence and apparent supression of favorable testimony.

The evidence developed at the trial revealed, according to the brief, that the alleged rape victim "consented to intercourse," "interposed no physical resistance," made no "verbal protests," and subsequently accepted payment on the spot from the soldier. 4-4-44

"VICTIM" HAD DISEASE

Medical inquiry showed the girl was suffering from a social disease before she met Fisher and Lowry, according to the brief, but this information was withheld from the court-marital.

The prosecution of the youths was at the instance of a white officer, Lt. Robert L. Engels, who according to the brief had had relations with the woman earlier the same evening. Lt. Engels testified the soldiers drew a "45" on him and threatened him. The boys denied this, and said the officer aided them in making arrangements with the woman.

Lt. Engels since has been discharged from the Army "for reasons other than honorable."

Legal counsel, says the brief, was not made available to the soldiers until the day before their trial.

A DOLLAR APIECE! WAS THE PRICE THEY PAID! AND THEN HER COMPANION, HAD THEM BETRAYED!

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio
3-2-44

Of the many legal examples of injustice, judicial lynchings, filled to overflowing with most vicious demonstration of inhumanity, the recent incarceration for life of two young Negro soldiers in Caledonia, that the N.A.A.C.P. calls the U. S. Army "Scottsboro case," makes an exhibition of which even the lowest savage nation would feel ashamed. Rape, that ever standard excuse and justification for cruelty, where colored men are involved sexually, furnished the opportunity for the degradation of the men, the tyranny of their oppressors, the purification of the prostitute and her companion, the white lieutenant, who furnished the charges, devoid of evidence, for the prosecution! A brief of the case, showing the innocence of the two colored men, has been submitted to the War Department authorities by Attorney Wm. H. Hastie, chairman of the N. A. A. C. P. legal committee and Congressman Marcantonio. Our government cannot permit this travesty upon its boasted christianity, civilization and Democracy, to go uncorrected, cannot permit a life-time of torture to make a hell for those two loyal soldiers, leaders of lives free from crime, whose misfortune was to be born black, whose fault, if any, was to pay the price the woman, a stranger to virtue, charged and who as a female Judas, betrayed them to a life-time of crucifixion.

Dabney.

3-2-44

The Watchtower

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

—By ROY WILKINS

The Army "Scottsboro Case"

Secretary of War Stimson has before him an appeal for clemency in a case that is a disgrace to the War Department and to the United States army. 3-4-44

The famous Scottsboro case was rotten, but this New Caledonia rape case involving two Negro soldiers is worse, if that can be imagined. The story of the case is a simple one. Two soldiers, Pvts. Frank Fisher, Jr., and Edward R. Loury, were returning from a carnival near Noumea, New Caledonia, May 2, 1943. They thumbed a ride part way home in an army car and were let out near a place known as "Prostitute Hill" declared "off limits" by the military authorities. The two Negro soldiers there saw a white American soldier and a woman coming out of the bushes and approaching a parked "jeep". The white soldier turned out to be a lieutenant and the Negro soldiers asked him if there was any objection to their making a bargain with the woman. The lieutenant not only made no objection but made the bargain in French with the woman because she spoke no English and the Negroes spoke no French. Both Negro soldiers had relations with the woman and paid her on the spot. When they finished the woman rode away with the lieutenant in the "jeep."

Mr. Wilkins

Four days later the men were arrested. One was grilled for five days, given little food and less sleep. He was threatened with hanging. He was told he would be shot to death.

Finally a statement was secured from the men. A trial was had. Military lawyers appointed to defend the men were named and saw their clients on Sunday. The trial opened the next day. 3-4-44

The woman in the case was shown in court to have been a loose person, to use the mildest term. She admitted having had sexual rela-

3-2-44

Army Has Its Own Scottsboro Case

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON

A petition for clemency on behalf of Frank Fisher, Jr., and Edward R. Loury, two soldiers serving life sentences in the U.S. Penitentiary at McNeil Island, Washington, following their conviction for "raping" a French prostitute in New Caledonia, has been filed with the Secretary of War.

Dr. William H. Hastie and Congressman Vito Marcantonia, attorneys for the two men, call the case "one of the worst fake rape cases of all time,"—a literal Army "Scottsboro case."

The Army courts martial which convicted the men ruled out testimony that the girl consented, accepted three dollars in payment and was found to be infected with gonorrhea contracted before she met the soldiers. 3-4-44

White Officer Accuses

Fisher and Loury were turned in by a white lieutenant who, testimony revealed, had spent ten previous nights with the girl.

In addition, the girl—one Louise Mounien—admitted to the French magistrate who first heard the case that she had been intimate with the officer (Lieut. Robert L. Engles) twice during the three hours immediately preceding her involvement with the enlisted men.

According to a sworn statement made by Loury, he, Fisher and an unidentified soldier, on the night of May 2, 1943, were returning from a carnival near Noumea when they saw a man and a woman coming out of the bushes near a parked jeep.

They stopped the couple and asked if they might have relations with the girl. Arrangements were made and the girl was paid three dollars. 3-4-44

Quizzed All Night

Four days later, Fisher and Loury were placed under arrest. Said Loury: "They (the officers) started talking to me about the rape of a girl . . . They questioned me all the rest of the night and then requested me to make out a statement saying that Fisher and I had been armed with a .45 and had forced Lieut. Engels with the .45 to let us have relations with Louise Mounien.

"They read me a statement which they said was made by Lieut. Engels and the girl, and asked me to make a similar statement. When I refused, they had me taken downstairs and locked up in a cell. My shoestrings were taken away."

Threatened with Hanging

Loury says that he was threatened with being bludgeoned with a blackjack, hanged and shot if he didn't make the statement as requested. He steadfastly refused. For four days and nights he was subjected to third-degree treatment. 3-4-44

On the fifth day, Loury said, he was ill, and having been denied hospital treatment, was very weak.

"Finally," he said, "I told the officer (a Lieut. Teeples) that I would make a statement . . . I was taken upstairs and signed the statement, and they said that I swore to it, but I never did."

Both Loury, who was born in Louisville but lived most of his life in Chicago, and Fisher, whose home is in Arkansas, enlisted in the Army. Neither had any criminal record prior to enlistment.

Just before Loury's case was tried, the soldier said, Lieut. Engels talked with him and said that "he thought he (Engels) was a fool for reporting in the first place what had happened."

Fourteen-Year-Old Youth Given New Trial In Rape Case

SANTA FE, N. M.—Melvin Clarence Evans, 14, of Alamogordo, was released June 16 from the state penitentiary here on a writ of habeas corpus after he had been sentenced to 20-25 years in prison on a rape charge.

Evans' release was secured by attorneys engaged by the Albuquerque, New Mexico, Branch NAACP. He was bound over to the district court in Alamogordo where he was placed under $3,000 bond. If the bond is not made, he will remain in jail until the next term of court, October 9, to await a jury trial.

Harry Rodgers and Melvin Reuckhaus, Albuquerque attorneys, contended that Evans was 13 years old when he was tried last December 9 and that he waived constitutional rights although he was not mentally capable of making such a decision.

W. T. Scroggins, jr., district attorney, said that constitutional rights were not mentioned to the youth and he was not told at any time that he had a right to a trial before a jury.

37h-1944 South Carolina

7161

Negro Youth Executed For Attempted Attack

News—Charlotte, N.C.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(AP)—Sammy Lee (Frank) Timmons, 20-year-old Horry County Negro, twice convicted of a charge of attempting to criminally assault a white woman, died in the electric chair at the State Penitentiary at 7:30 today. 5-12-44

Governor Olin D. Johnston who visited Timmons in the death house last night said the young man denied for more than an hour that he attempted to rape the woman but admitted he entered her home and that during a struggle she stabbed him with an ice pick before he fled from the dwelling.

The Governor said Timmons previously denied entering the woman's room.

Johnston, who was accompanied to the death house by J. Baxter Funderburk of Columbia, Secretary of the State Board of Pardons, who said no last-minute appeals for executive clemency or attempt to stay execution through legal channels were made.

37h-1944 Tennessee

TENN. WOMAN WHO KILLED WHITE MAN IN RAPE CASE IS FREED

Plaindealer — Kansas City, Kan.

8-18-44

7162

Jackson, Tenn.—Judge Frank L. Johnson, at the close of a habeas corpus petition hearing today, set at liberty Terather Bryant, 20-year-old maid, who had been held without bond on charges of murdering Walter E. Proctor, white, July 29.

Attorneys for the girl had filed the habeas corpus petition in the 12th Judicial Circuit Court after Squire John Cherry of Henderson had refused bail in a magistrate's hearing August 4.

The girl herself reported the shooting shortly after it occurred and declared she fired the fatal shot while in fear for her life and to protect herself against criminal assult.

Defense Attorneys Martin Exum and P. L. Hatden used three witnesses before Judge Johnson, the girl, Charlie Shivers, colored farm hand who drove her back to town after the killing, and Deputy Sheriff Lois L. Acuff.

Gen. David P. Murray and Jere I. Galbreath, representing Sheriffs Ewing Griffin of Madison and George Bail of Henderson counties, defendants in the habeas corpus proceedings, offered no testimony.

After hearing witnesses, Judge Johnson declared that the proof overwhelmingly supported the petition as it unfolded "one of the most sordid stories" ever presented in his court.

8-18-44

If the facts alleged are true, he added, "she (the girl) is justified in taking the life of this man." And he noted that physical circumstances found by the officers tend to corroborate the girl's confession.

"It is the judgment of this Court," Judge Johnson concluded, "that this woman is entitled to be set at liberty."

37h-1944

Texas

7163

Alleged Rapist Is Escaped Patient From Okla. Hospital

Exp. Mail Houston, Texas

12-23-44

DALLAS — Allen Murray, sentenced to die for the alleged rape of a white woman near Denton, Texas early last year, was granted a 30-day reprieve by Governor Coke Stevenson when Mrs. Mabel Bassett, white, commissioner of charities and corrections in Oklahoma protested that the man is an escaped patient from an insane asylum and asked that he be reprieved.

In her telegram, the white woman said:

"Allen Murray, Negro, sometimes known as Murray Allen in this state sentenced to be electrocuted Dec. 1 at Huntsville, Texas, is an escaped patient from our state hospital for the insane, Taft, Okla. Declared insane by the sanity board Oklahoma county, July 19, 1943. I am asking a reprieve for him until the matter can be properly presented to you with proof of his insanity. Am writing, sending case history. Would appreciate your knowing your decision."

Allen, it appears, following his escape from the Taft institution, was apprehended in Texas, and following a trial in which he was charged with rape, was convicted and sentenced to electrocution. The alleged crime ocurred near Denton.

12-23-44

"Attached papers will show that our Allen Murray served one term in our state prison at McAlester, Okla. He served a two-year sentence for burglary, second degree. He made one escape from the prison and was gone for two days, and was returned by the officials. He served this sentence in 1940. I have been state commissioner of charities and corrections for twenty-two years in this state and have much to do with our prisons. I knew this man was considered, while at the prison, to be mentally sick. The records will show that he spent eight months of that time in the detention ward because of his mental condition. It was said that his mental age was that of seven or eight years. Other than the one escape, he gave no trouble at the prison; was not guilty of any other violation, and the warden cleared his record before he was discharged April 12, 1942.

"Following his release and in July 1943, in fact to be exact, on July 19, 1943, he was examined by the Sanity Board of this county as he was found to be mentally disturbed and doing peculiar things. The examining board declared him to be insane and he was committed to the hospital at Taft, Okla.

"Twelve days after he was received at the hospital he escaped and the next I heard of him he was charged with the crime in your state.

12-23-44

"Until this case was brought to my attention this past week, I did not know Dr. Henry, superintendent of the State Hospital for the Negro Insane, had been notified that the patient was in Texas, and charged with crime. Although Dr. Henry knew the man had been committed to his institution as an insane person, it seems he made no effort to return his patient to the hospital from Texas, as he should have done. I have talked with Dr. Henry, superintendent, and I am sending you a copy of statement made by him sometime ago relative to this patient.

"Dr. Henry states that the hospital clinic examined this patient; that he was present, with other members of the staff, and that the patient was found to be 'mentally deficient with psychosis'; that he is mentally unbalanced and of unsound mind.'

12-23-44

"Strange as it may seem, Dr. Henry seems to have made the statement when advised by the Texas officers, that the patient was in his custody; that he did not desire that the patient be returned to his institution because of the crowded condition existing there at the time. This statement coming from the superjntendent, amazes me, even though the hospital was crowded. This man had been committed there as an insane person and should have had more consideration than Dr. Henry seems to have given him. For this I apologize for the State of Oklahoma.

"I do not know, Governor, what your decision will be in this matter. I can only lay the facts before you and await your decision.

"Governor (Kerr) of our state is out of the city at this time and will be for several days. I have had no opportunity to discuss the case with him; however, I have with the Attorney General's Office, and was advised, as the matter is urgent, to immediately get in touch with you and advise you what the facts are regarding this prisoner."

In the letter forwarded to Gov. Stevenson last week, Mrs. Bassett said:

12-23-44

"This morning I sent you a wire relative to Allen Murray, a Negro, who occasionally goes under the name of Murray Allen in this state. However, Allen Murray is his correct name. This Negro is now in your prison at Huntsville, Texas, charged and prosecuted for rape, and awaiting electrocution on Dec. 1 of this year.

12-23-44

"Only recently, I learned that he is there and to be electrocuted, and knowing that he is an escaped patient from our hospital for the Negro insane, located at Taft, Okla., and that he was declared insane by the Sanity Board here in Oklahoma county and committed to the hospital as an insane person. I felt that you would appreciate knowing something of the conditions and background of this man who has been sentenced to death in your state.

12-23-44

37h-1944

Virginia

7164

Death Sentence Given in Rape Of Va. Woman

12-29-44

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 28 (AP).—Willie Rodgers Jones, 29, Negro, today was under sentence to die in the electric chair at Richmond on February 2 for having raped a white woman who was driving a for-hire-car here the night of October 2.

Sentence was imposed late Wednesday by Judge Richard B. Spindle of Corporation Court, who had taken the matter of punishment under advisement following a plea of guilty by Jones last November 27.

Judge Spindle, in imposing sentence, said Jones was guilty of brutally attacking and beating the woman. He made a point of the fact that many women have been called into unusual lines of work during the war and said they must be given the maximum protection.

Jones is the second defendant to be sentenced to death here in two years on pleas of guilty. James Bunch Mooring, 22, was sentenced by Judge James W. Goode early in 1943 and was executed for fatally shooting a Norfolk merchant during a robbery.

The complaining witness against Jones testified that she ran out of gasoline and went to sleep in her car. She said she was awakened by the cab being in motion, and that her assailant threw a coat over her head to smother her screams.

12-29-44

A witness for the prosecution testified that Jones had been sent out to put gasoline in the car driven by the victim of the attack. Jones did not testify.

Jury Frees Man Of Rape Charge

Richmond, Va.

BOYDTON, Dec. 14—(AP)—A jury today acquitted William Tunstall, 30-year-old Negro, of a charge that he raped Miss Laura Dutro, whose body, with that of her brother-in-law, Allan P. Johnson, was found stuffed in a closet of the Johnson home near Clarksville last March 15.

12-15-44

Principal witness for the Commonwealth in the case prosecuted by Commonwealth's Attorney F. C. Bedinger was A. B. Tuck, 19-year-old Negro farm hand, convicted in the slaying and given a life sentence.

Tunstall testified in his own behalf and the defense presented other witnesses in an effort to establish an alibi for Tunstall, who claimed he was elsewhere during the time of the crime.

Tunstall is also charged with the murder of Mr. Johnson and the murder of Miss Dutro. However, Commonwealth's-Attorney Bedinger indicated that, unless further evidence is obtained, the cases may not be brought to trial.

371-1944

7166

Eight Anti-Lynching Bills To Die In 78th Congress

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Eight anti-lynching bills are doomed to die at the present session of Congress, but the bitterly fought issue will crop out again when the new Congress meets.

Rep. Clason (R., Mass.), author of one measure, said he would introduce it again in the 79th Congress. An aid in the House judiciary committee said no action was anticipated at this session.

Besides Clason, anti-lynching bills are pending under the sponsorship of Rep. Fish (R., N. Y.), defeated for reelection; the late Rep. Guyer (R., Kan.), Rep. Ford (D., Calif), also defeated, and Reps. Gavin (R., Pa.), Ludlow (D., Ind.), Celler (D., N. Y.) and Powers (R., N. Y.).

37k-1944 (1)

Sheriff Denies Near-Lynching In Autocide

Houston, Tex.
8-26-44

HOUSTON.—The Harris county sheriff's department reported Tuesday that a Negro woman identified as Mrs. Shedrick Valrie of McNair, Texas, was being held in connection with the death of a 12-year-old white girl in Baytown, who was killed Monday morning when struck by an automobile.

Killed Instantly

Initial reports reaching the Informer following the accident were to the effect that a car in which two Negro men were riding struck the white girl, killing her instantly. The report added that an enraged mob formed and threats of lynching were made.

Two men, who said they were driving by at the time of the accident, stated that the white girl was crossing the street with some more children and dropped a nickle. A car driven by a Negro was passing at the time at a rate of 25 miles an hour, one of the men reported. The little girl turned in the path of the approaching car to retrieve the nickle. 8-26-44

In a statement to an Informer reporter, one of the men, who said he witnessed the affair, stated that the Negro driving the car jumped out and ran and the mob cornered the passenger. The passenger was taken from the mob by a deputy sheriff, the man said.

The sheriff's office here denied any knowledge of a Negro man being in the Mercury car driven by Mrs. Valrie.

Call Lynch Town Hillbilly Paradise

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

PRESTON, Md.—Located eleven miles from Easton, in Caroline County, this town is a typical Eastern Shore hillbilly's paradise.

Residents number about 400, 24 of whom are colored, and the principal occupations are farming and canning in the two tomato factories and the pickle plant.

Colored people come from nearby Easton, Federalsburg, and Jonestown to work, but not to live, and the average factory wage for employees is about $5.50 a day.

When AFRO reporters and photographers visited here Sunday, a white man lay dead and a colored man, Howard Hubbard, local tavern operator, was in jail charged with his murder. His son, Howard Jr., and a friend, Frank Palmer, both 17, were held as State's witnesses.

Lynch Attempt Foiled

A mob had sought to take the three men from police and, failing in this, had burned Hubbard's home and tavern.

In the meantime, the two remaining colored families in town cringed in their homes while State police, surrounded by surly looking whites, kept vigil over the smouldering fires in the ruins of which had once been Hubbard Sr.'s business establishment and the home of his family of ten.

As AFRO photographers jumped forth with cameras, Police Chief J. Philip Wright walked up saying, "Don't need pictures; it's disgrace enough as it is."

One of the remaining colored residents said that everyone else had "cleared out" and added, "We aren't going to stay here tonight either."

Law for Whites Only

Another told the AFRO that colored people are "tired of taking it," and "they always have to bow to white people because there's no law enforcement or protection when they are involved."

There were no signs of seven hogs and a horse (which the family had) when the AFRO visited the ruins Sunday. All that was left were 150 chickens.

Household goods, clothing, and table linens valued at over $3,000 were in the house, Mrs. Hubbard said.

Another member of the family met by the AFRO said they were going back to remove the furniture, but the AFRO informed them there was no need, as the house had been burned to the ground.

Slayer, Victim Friends

Mr. Davis, the dead white man, and Mr. Hubbard were bosom friends, another resident reported.

Palmer had been working during the tomato season in the Preston factories, according to his grandmother, Mrs. Annie Hawkins, of 851 Vine Street, Baltimore.

Several residents reported that the fire at the tavern, which police blamed on a storm, occurred at 10 p.m., three hours after the storm was over. One resident said a can of gasoline was left near the scene, indicating it was a planned act.

One woman resident said:

"If they come after me, I'm not running; I bet I'll get two or three of them before they get me. Our boys are fighting in France for them too!"

AFRO representatives breathed genuine sighs of relief as their car put distance between them and the hostile eyes of Preston's hillbilly white inhabitants.

(3)

Trio Shifted, Md. Lynching Mob Foiled

Post—Washington, D.C.

Preston, Md., Sept. 22 (AP).—Three Eastern Shore Negroes, one of them charged with the killing of a white man yesterday on a Preston street, were held in Baltimore for safekeeping tonight after an unsuccessful attempt to find them by men armed with guns and ropes. 9-23-44

The slaying of a bystander, Restaurant Proprietor James Davis, about 35, occurred yesterday in the climax to an argument about a near mishap involving cars driven by a Negro and a white.

At Denton, 15 miles from Preston, State's Attorney Layman J. Redden said he had filed a murder charge against a Negro tavernkeeper, Howard Hubbard, about 47, who was taken into custody by State police shortly after yesterday's shooting.

Hubbard's beer parlor was destroyed by fire last night during a severe electrical storm, but both State troopers and Preston Police Chief J. Phil Wright said the cause of the blaze was undetermined.

Two Youths Also Held

Also taken to Baltimore by State police were Howard Hubbard, jr., about 17, and his companion in the car, Frank Palmer, 18.

Wright said there were about "100 persons in the mob, armed with shotguns, rifles and ropes." He said the group included persons from Preston and the surrounding towns of Hurlock, Choptank, Federalsburg, Easton, Harmony and Grove. 9-23-44

The gathering [illegible] and started for Denton about 8 p. m., Wright said.

Meanwhile the State police had taken Hubbard, jr., to Chestertown and thence to Baltimore, while the two youths were placed in another car and sent to Baltimore by a different route. Both automobiles arrived there early today.

At Denton, Sheriff Salisbury Sparks, who said his wife estimated the crowd at "35 or 40," related that he was not at home when the group called and demanded the prisoner. Mrs. Sparks told the leaders the prisoner was not there, and then permitted them to search the jail, the sheriff continued.

Troopers Still in Patrol

Meanwhile, in Preston, Chief Wright said he received help from about 10 State troopers in patrolling the streets, in addition to seven men he had on duty. The police chief said patrols were out again tonight, merely as a precaution. 9-23-44

Mayor J. Lee Colby and Dr. Harold Plummer, Preston physician, witnessed the actual shooting, the police chief said. He related this story of events as gathered from witnesses:

Howard Hubbard, jr., and rank Palmer, with Hubbard driving, stopped at the entry to Preston's main street. The car began backing, and Lloyd Price of Choptank blew his horn and then pulled alongside. A quarrel ensued, with all three getting out of the cars, and Price was beaten.

Young Hubbard went home and told his father of the incident, and the father returned in his car to the spot, where Price still stood talking with bystanders.

The elder Hubbard leaped from the car, "started for Price and Price started for him, and then Hubbard pulled a gun and started shooting. He fired four shots and the fifth hit Davis who, attracted by the noise, was coming out of his restaurant. He was hit in the chest and fell to the street, dying a short time later." 9-23-44

Hubbard fled, but was arrested by State troopers at his home short time later.

7167

Lynching Averted By State Troopers

New York, N.Y.

Mob Persuaded To Spare Man's Life; Flog, Chase Victim

Newspaper Headline, Texas
9-15-44

By JOHN E. ROUSSEAU, Jr.

NEW ORLEANS, La.—The little town of Plaisance, Louisiana, located between the cities of Opelousas and Ville Platte, Louisiana, was the scene of a near-lynching on Friday, June 30, when an irate mob of white men seized a Negro blacksmith, whipped him, and drove him out of town after having been persuaded by the owner of the blacksmith shop not to stain the name of St. Landry parish with a lynching. It was learned from resident of Opelousas on Wednesday.

Seize Man at Blacksmith Shop

According to reports, a mob of French-speaking whites or "Cadians" went to the blacksmith shop owned by Amos Sylvester armed with guns and carrying a rope on Friday, June 30.

On arriving there, they reported to have seized Earl Lastrape, the blacksmith, tied his hands and began forcing him into a wagon, declaring their intentions to take him into the woods and hang him. The reason for their actions had not been learned.

Pleading with the lynch-crazy mob to spare the life of his blacksmith, Mr. Sylvester talked for nearly a half hour and was finally success-

Lynch Mob Shots Of Enraged Father By Random Death Of Curious Onlooker

7-30-44

BALTIMORE—While more than 2000 lynchers searched for a tavern owner who had been charged with the murder of a white Preston, Md., Howard Hubbard, of Preston, Md. had been charged with the murder of a white Preston, Md., son was James Davis, resident seized him in the city jail here and lodged him in the county jail out of reach of the mob Police Chief J. Philip Wright said that Price and Hubbard's son, Howard, Jr., 15, had become involved in a traffic argument on Sept. 21. In an ensuing altercation Price allegedly was beaten by young Hubbard and a companion. Sometime later, according to report, Price and other Preston residents were discussing the argument in front of Davis' restaurant when Davis was shot to death in front of his place of business, as the result of a previous argument between Hubbard's son and Lloyd Price, a white motorist.

In a statement on the slaying,

they were approached by the Hubbards, father and son. In the course of a dispute between Price and Hubbard, the elder Hubbard is said to have pulled a gun and started firing, shooting at random. Davis is reported to have walked to the front door of his restaurant just at the moment that Hubbard opened fire. Hewas struck in the heart by one of the 22-calibre bullets and died a few minutes later. 9-30-44

The news of Davis' death was followed by the forming of a mob, armed with clubs, rope and shotguns, which surrounded the jail at nearby Denton, Md., and demanded the release of Hubbard and his son. However, the Hubbards had been turned over to the State Police after having been taken into custody by Chief Wright. The troopers transported them to Baltimore, where they are being held.

Hubbard's dance hall and tavern were later destroyed by fire during the height of an electrical storm. It is not known whether or not the fire was caused by lightning.

The Negro residents of Preston remained in their homes during the most tense period of the affair, and police report that none of them was molested. By week-end calm had been restored, and the lynchers had disbanded. A search is being made for the Negro who was a companion to the younger Hubbard during the initial argument with Price.

Citizens Ask Governor To Save Fugitive

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Irate Mob Sought to Lynch Man Accused of Death of White Woman

6-10-44

By MELVIN B. JOHNSON

NEWARK N. J.—Churchmen and civic leaders of the city have hurriedly organized a committee to prevent the return to the Georgia chain gang of a 35-year-old married man who escaped from prison after a mob of irate whites had sought to lynch him for allegedly causing the death of a white woman in an auto accident.

Governor Walter Edge, Monday, was asked by the group to refuse to sign extradition papers returning Herman Powell, the alleged fugitive, over to Georgia authorities until after a public hearing is held to determine if his constitutional rights would not be jeopardized. 6-10-44

Powell was taken into custody at his home, 21 Price St., last Monday, by Lieut. William Warigner of the homicide squad as a fugitive from justice. Detective Captain Frank O'Neil, following Powell's arrest, said he was informed by Sheriff D. F. Hall of Johnson County, Ga., that Powell had escaped from the county jail at Wrightsville soon after he had been convicted of murder in February, 1942.

The alleged fugitive told Newark detectives that he had not been convicted of murder, claiming that he had been sent to jail after his car was involved in a fatal crash. He admitted, O'Neil said, tunneling his way out of the Georgia jail, and added that he met his wife and came to Newark, where he has been employed since.

Charles M. Grosman, attorney for Powell, who is fighting the extradition move, and is expected to confer with Governor Edge one day this week, said an invesitgation had disclosed that Powell was driving a car which was in collision with another auto in Wrightsville, Ga., March 17, 1940. A white woman passenger in the second car died two days later of injuries, after which a mob of whites attempted to lynch Powell, who was taken into protective custody by police.

Tried Without Jury

Three months later, Grosman said, Powell was tried without jury in the Johnson County Court House on a murder charge. He was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. He escaped after serving a year and came North, where he had lived in Newark with his wife for two and a half years. 6-10-44

Sheriff Hall, who arrived in Newark Saturday with papers requesting the signature of Governor Edge, wrote police here that Powell's conviction had been appealed to the Georgia high court, and sustained. He said that the hunted man succeeded in escaping with another man while awaiting transfer to the Georgia State Prison. It was likely that Powell would have been placed on the infamous chain gang of Georgia, which has been described by many inmates as cruel and heartless, if he had not escaped.

The Ministers Conference of Newark and vicinity, N. J. Urban League, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Civil Liberties Union and many other organizations have expressed a desire to support a fight to prevent the return of Powell to Georgia, Grosman said.

The alleged fugitive was taken to the county jail at Caldwell, where he can remain 30 days while the fight is being conducted in his behalf.

Mob Cheated of Lynching Party

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

N. J. Studies 'Justice' In Return of Fugitive

To State of Georgia

6-17-44

By MELVIN B. JOHNSON

TRENTON, N. J.—The administration of justice towards Negro defendants accused of crimes by the State of Georgia will be investigated by New Jersey authorities before a decision is made on returning a fugitive to Georgia who was once saved from being lynched by a mob of white citizens.

This was the course decided upon last Wednesday by Attorney General Walter D. Van Riper, after he had conducted a hearing to determine if 35-year-old Herman Powell of Prince st., Newark, should be turned over to Georgia authorities to complete serving a life sentence for causing the death of a white woman in an automobile accident.

Arrested May 29

The hearing was conducted after local ministers and representatives of social agencies became interested in Powell's behalf when he was arrested by Newark detectives at his home on May 29, at the request of Sheriff Dewey Howell of Johnson County, Ga., who had received information that Powell had been residing in Newark with his wife for the past year and a half.

A committee representing the Ministers' Conference of Newark and vicinity, composed of Revs. H. T. Borders and Rev. W. W. Flemming of Newark, and Rev. George B. Riley of Paterson, retained Charles Grosman, white, to represent Powell. Grosman's first move was to appeal to Governor Walter E. Edge for a public hearing on the extradition demand made by Georgia authorities, after hearing the fugitive's story.

Claim He Was Drunk

Sheriff Howell said at the hearing conducted by Van Riper that Powell was drunk when his automobile was involved in an accident in May, 1941, which resulted in fatal injuries to the white woman. The colored defendant, he said, was sentenced to a Georgia prison for life after his conviction on a murder charge, but escaped Feb. 6, 1942, while in process of being transferred to the state penitentiary. Powell escaped with another colored prisoner, the Georgia officer said. 6-17-44

In contending that the extradition request for Powell should be denied by Governor Edge, Grosman said that the fugtive's conduct had been "exemplary" since he arrived in New Jersey and that if he is returned to Georgia, he would be "subject to mob violence."

Powell, it was revealed, was driving in Wrightsville, Ga., when the accident occurred and the occupants of both cars involved were injured, including himself. While the colored man was lying unconscious on the ground a lynch mob was formed to hang him, but he was rescued by the sheriff of that county now dead, and carried 100 miles away for hospital treatment.

Convicted of Murder

Later, Powell was tried in Dublin, Ga., and was convicted of a murder charge in which death had been demanded by the State. Efforts were made by Powell's counsel to have the case appealed, but no action was taken, his counsel said, though Sheriff Howell claimed the higher courts of Georgia had reviewed the conviction and refused a new trial to the defendant.

After serving a year in prison, Powell escaped and after picking up his wife came to Newark to live. He was employed at Armour's Meat Packing concern at the time of his arrest and was an active member of New Jerusalem Baptist Church.

The investigation being conducted by Attorney General Van Riper marks a change in the policy of New Jersey which has honored extradition demands from several Southern states in recent years without question, because of an interstate agreement.

Kidnap Cops Sent To Trial Of Suspects

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Florida Section Tense As Wednesday Hearings Open at Gainesville

9-2-44

By Special Correspondent

GAINESVILLE, FLA.—Although an atmosphere of deceptive quiet and order prevailed here, Monday, actually the air was charged with ill-controlled tension, as a lynch-bent population waited for latest developments in the case of three young Negroes who will be brought to trial on Wednesday for the alleged shooting and raping of a 20-year-old white woman.

The local population has been noticeably swelled by a silent infiltration of red-necked, hard-eyed backwoodsmen, some of whom have not been seen in town during the past twenty years.

Mobs Prowl Highways

Although the mobs of would-be lynchers have permitted members of the state highway patrol to resume their regular duties unmolested, it is known that bands of heavily armed men patrol the cedar roads and highways, nightly, on the alert for the arrival of the three alleged rapists whose whereabouts are unknown. 9-2-44

Tension reached its peak in this vicinity last Saturday when more than 100 mobsters, including several prominent professional and business men, barricaded a highway and seized two squad cars filled with state highway patrolmen who were on their way to Quincy, Fla., to attend the trial.

The trial, originally booked for last Thursday, later was postponed and transferred here, approximately 175 miles away. Mayor J. J. Love of Quincy openly sponsored the decision, declaring that he was afraid that the Negroes could not get a fair trial in his town except at the cost of bloodshed.

Accused of Raping Woman

The accused Negroes are charged with forcing an Army sergeant's wife from her car during the night of July 30, somewhere near Chattahoochie. They are alleged to have assaulted her, shot her twice and then to have concealed her body under a heap of branches. The young woman later recovered and is expected to appear against the trio during the scheduled trial on Wednesday. 9-2-44

The accused are Fred Lane, 19; James Davis, 16, and James Williams, 26, all of Gadsden County. The name of the woman was kept secret.

Mystery still clouds the exact location of the three defendants, as well as any changes that may have been made concerning the site of the trial. It is known that Circuit Judge W. May Walker and State Attorney Orion C. Parker are scheduled to arrive here this week for the trial. Yet Gov. Stessard L. Holland publicly stated, on Friday, that he did not believe the men could be brought to Gainesville without blood being spilled. Judge Walker had ordered the original change of venue for the prisoners on the grounds that to have produced them in Quincy would have met with the same result.

May Mobilize Militia

Considerable interest has been attached to the Governor's threat to secure a fair and speedy trial for the accused, even at the expense of mobilizing the state guards and the militia. Despite the fact that 250 state guards and sixty highway patrolmen were on duty in Leon and Gadsden Counties Thursday, threatening bands of armed civilians roamed all the major highways and side roads between Quincy and Tallahassee. 9-2-44

The statement of an anonymous patrol sergeant, who was in one of the squad cars which was seized by the mob, gives some estimate of the seriousness of the situation. "We were sent to Quincy to maintain law and order," he said. About midway between Quincy and Tallahassee we were stopped by a road blockade, formed by cars parked across the highway."

Declaring that the searchers numbered approximately 100 armed men, he stated that they "asked us to get out. Then they searched our car to make sure we didn't have the Negroes with us." 9-2-44

"At first the crowd was pretty hostile," he concluded, "but finally they became friendly." He said that the members of the mob had stripped all license plates from their cars in order to avoid identification. None of the names of the would-be lynchers has been reported.

37k-1944 J 3

Negroes Accused In Criminal Assault Get Venue Change

Advertiser — Montgomery, Ala.

8-25-44

QUINCY, FLA., Aug. 24.—(AP)—Gov. Spessard L. Holland said today three negroes charged with assaulting a white woman could not be brought here for trial without danger of "heavy bloodshed."

The trial, scheduled for today, was not started, and the case was transferred by Circuit Judge W. May Walker to Gainesville, 175 miles away, for a later date.

The governor's statement was made to explain why the Gadsden County Circuit Court waited in session for more than six hours without the three defendants being produced by the state highway patrol, which had been assigned to transport them from the state prison at Raiford.

About 250 state militiamen, members of seven defense force units from as far away as Gainesville and Jacksonville, were on duty around the courthouse to prevent violence. There were no demonstrations at the courthouse.

Governor Holland said two cars of state highway patrolmen had been blockaded on the highway between Quincy and Tallahassee last night, and held there for an hour. The negroes were not in the party, and there was no harm to the patrolmen.

He said there were indications of a "very carefully laid plan" to take the negroes from the police and that leading residents of Quincy had thought it best to transfer the trial. 8-25-44

Highway Patrol Lieut. Olin Hill said one patrol car was stopped by a blockade of automobiles on the highway near Midway. When radio communication was lost with the car, the patrol headquarters sent another to investigate. It, too, was trapped in the blockade of automobiles occupied by armed men.

A third car later came near the blockade and a patrolman in charge obtained release of the other two, Hill said.

"As far as I know," Governor Holland reported, "none of the men in the blockade party was known. If any of them are known, of course they will be prosecuted." 8-25-44

The governor said ample protection will be provided at the Gainesville trial.

Shortly after Judge Walker made his ruling, a big convoy of state guards and highway patrolmen left the Tallahassee jail with the defendants, presumably for the state prison at Raiford.

All during the day the Tallahassee jail was under heavy guard. At one time the jail was the scene of a conference on protective measures between the governor and high state militia officials.

Fla. Mobs Block Trial of Three

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

QUINCY, Fla.—(ANP)—The attempt to hold trial for three men charged with raping a white woman was thwarted by mobs along roads leading into the city, which stopped State road patrolmen they believed were delivering the prisoners for trial.

Circuit Judge W. May Walker then ordered the trial of the prisoners, Fred Lane, 19; James Davis, 16, and James Williams, 26, transferred from here to Gainesville, 160 miles away, where they would be assured ample protection, he said. 9-2-44

The men are charged not only with having assaulted a 20-year-old employee of the State hospital at Chattahoochee, but also with having shot her twice. Pictures of the men were on sale on the streets here for ten cents.

Threats of Lynching

Following open threats of lynching, colored leaders of this city and Tallahassee talked with Gov. S. L. Holland, who assured them that there would be no lynching. Three white leaders also testified that a fair trial would be impossible here.

Before the trial, colored residents of the community were told to stay off the streets and to close their businesses by armed white men who stopped all cars coming into the county. 9-2-44

The governor said that two cars of patrolmen were held for an hour until released by a third. He said further that, as far as he knew, none of the mobs' members could be identified but that if they became known they would be prosecuted.

7168

371-1944

16-Year-Old Boy Executed In Florida

Journal + Guide
Norfolk, Va. 10-14-44

RAIFORD, Fla. — Six t e e n-year-old James Davis paid the death penalty in the electric chair on Monday with two others following their convictions of charges of raping and shooting of a 22-year-old woman. Davis became the youngest person to die in the Florida death chamber since the chair was put in use in 1924.

He was convicted with James Williams, 26, and Freddie Lane, 20, on August 31 in Circuit Court, Gainesville, and the death penalty was decreed the same day.

VICTIM TESTIFIES

Their blonde victim testified that the three men on July 30, forced her from an automobile and attacked her, after which she was shot in the head and left in the woods. 10-14-44

The father of the woman witnessed the triple execution, but the woman and her husband, an Air Force bombardier, did not attend.

7169

37L-1944

Ask War Dep't Clemency for 2 Negro Soldiers

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.
2-25-44

Third degree, bias, and a frame-up from beginning to end was charged before the Secretary of War in a brief filed this week urging the freedom of Privates Frank Fisher and Edward Loury, serving life sentences in a federal penitentiary on "rape" charges. The brief was filed by Congressman Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense, and William H. Hastie of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, who had previously argued at a clemency hearing for the two men.

Fisher and Loury, Negro soldiers, were sentenced in New Caledonia, in the Pacific area, last June. Evidence at the court-martial itself was contradictory, counsel for the two men argued, and besides that a whole volume of evidence directly bearing on the charge was never put into the record of the court martial. The two men were sweated, threatened with murder, and tortured for days in an effort to break down their protestations of innocence, it was charged in affidavits which they signed and which were attached to the brief.

Inasmuch as the conviction and sentence were upheld on appeal by the military forces at Melbourne, Australia, the only recourse open to Fisher and Loury is clemency by the Secretary of War.

The uncontroverted evidence at the court martial was that the incident on the basis of which they were convicted was a transaction with a prostitute, who accepted money from them for her favors.

"No reasonable person can believe that white soldiers would have been convicted or even tried for rape in the circumstances," the brief filed by Messr's Marcantonio and Hastie contends.

DROP CHARGE OF RAPE AGAINST NEGRO SOLDIER

Tribune
Chicago, Ill.

Lewistown, Ill., Jan. 24 (AP).—A charge of rape against Pvt. Morris Nichols, 19 year old Negro of Camp Ellis, was dropped in Fulton county Circuit court today by State's Attorney Lachlan Crissey.

Judge Kiley Stevens ordered the charge stricken after Crissey said he believed the evidence against the soldier was insufficient for a conviction. 1-25-44

Nichols had been held in jail since Nov. 6 after a farm wife had been raped near Camp Ellis. He was turned over to Fulton county authorities after another Negro soldier, Holley Willis, 19, of Asheville, N. C., was slain in the woman's home by a neighboring farmer.

Rape Case Plea Weighed

PM—New York, N.Y.
3-22-44

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Mar. 22.—Col. Philip McCook has submitted a report to Under Secretary of War Robert Patterson on clemency appeals for two Negro privates convicted of rape in New Caledonia and sentenced to life imprisonment, it was learned today.

Oral arguments in behalf of the two Negroes—Frank Fisher, Jr., 21, and Edward Loury, 22—were presented to Col. McCook recently by Judge William H. Hastie, former civilian aide to Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, Leslie Perry, of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, and Rep. Vito Marcantonio (ALP, N. Y.).

The nature of Col. McCook's report could not be ascertained, but it was understood that a final decision in the cases would be forthcoming soon from the War Dept. Since the convictions were sustained by the theater command at Melbourne, Australia, War Dept. officials here are restricted to proposals for clemency. 3-22-44

In a brief lodged with the War Dept. following the oral argument, Hastie and Marcantonio contended that the Negroes were the victims of a "Scottsboro" frameup in the U. S. Army. They asserted that the convictions were unlawful, that so-called confessions had been extorted by third-degree methods and that the victim of the alleged rape was a native woman of loose morals who accepted payment from the Negroes.

RESCUES ACCUSED NEGRO

Times—New York, N.Y.

Policeman Finds Men Beating Boston Youth as Girl's Accoster

5-30-44

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., May 29 (AP)—A police lieutenant off duty went to the rescue of a six-foot Negro who was being beaten by several men early today after allegedly attempting to rape a white woman.

Lieutenant Patrick McCarthy was aroused at his home by the screams of two women and then by sounds of a free-for-all. He rushed to the street in his pajamas, identified himself to the crowd and held the Negro until a cruising car arrived. 5-30-44

The prisoner identified himself in court as Andrew Rich, 18, a merchant seaman. He was held in $2,500 bail for the grand jury after pleading innocent to assault and battery with intent to rape Miss Marjorie Johnson, 17. The latter said she was walking with her sister-in-law, Mrs. Irene Johnson, when Rich knocked her to the ground.

Execution Stay Asked For Five In Australia

Daily World
5-23-44
Atlanta, Ga.

Defense Claims Attack Victim Acted Willingly

NEW YORK — (SNS) — A stay of execution in the death sentences of four American soldiers and one American Negro merchant seaman convicted in Australia on a charge of rape has been requested of General Douglas MacArthur by the NAACP.

The cablegram, signed by Walter White, NAACP secretary, states:

"The National Association for Advancement of Colored People has been requested by O'Sullivan and Ruddy, Solicitors, Brisbane and Townsville to intervene with President in case of five men, Hazzard, Johnson, Seymour, Nelson and Davis, convicted rape sentenced death. JAG Washington advises you have full jurisdiction. We ask stay execution pending opportunity inspect record now en route and file appeal brief." 5-23-44

"Walter White."

CONVICTED IN ASSAULT

The five men were convicted and sentenced to be hanged by general court-martial March 16-19 in Townsville, Australia. They were charged with haping a white American Red Cross Worker on the night of January 10, 1944.

M. L. Williams of the firm of O'Sullivan and Ruddy, Solicitors, was appointed civilian counsel for the men and on April 1 cabled the NAACP, asking it to intervene with President Roosevelt to secure a stay of the death sentence until an air mail letter explaining the case could arrive in America. The letter, mailed on March 30, was received by the NAACP May 18. 5-23-44

The record of the trial, according to the summary contained in the letter, shows that at about 11:30 p. m., January 10, the Red Cross worker, who had been to a party and admitted she was feeling "pretty good," became angry with her party and started out to hitch hike home. The five colored men testified she waved down their truck and they took her in. She says she stopped when she saw the truck had Negro soldiers in it, and started to return in the direction from which she had come, when one of the men jumped from the truck, grabbed her and threatened to kill her if she did not come quietly with them.

ADMITTED RELATIONS

Defense counsel pointed out that the corner where she got into the truck was a prominent one, with considerable traffic and many residents nearby, and that if she had screamed she would have attracted instant attention and aid. She did not scream, according to her own testimony. She says she was "afarid."

The soldiers admitted having had relations with her, but testified she was willing and cooperative. She claims she was dragged from the truck, thrown to the ground and raped. 5-23-44

Weakest point for the defendants, according to the letter, was the conflict between statements they signed and gave to Army officers and their testimony later on the witness stand.

The full names of the prisoners are George Hazzard, Charles E. Johnson, Jr., George Seymour, Robert J. Nelson and Wesley E. Davis.

The Australian law firm is sending a copy of the complete record to the NAACP whose legal staff will study it and draw up an appeal brief which will be presented either to General MacArthur's headquarters, or to President Roosevelt in the final review.

Girl Attacked; Escort Is Shot

Constitution—Atlanta, Ga.
5-22-44

Fourteen Negroes are under arrest as a police dragnet seeks to apprehend two who desperately wounded a young man and assaulted a young woman, his companion, late Saturday night on the grounds of the Opportunity school at 417 Piedmont avenue, N. E.

Jack McCray, 22, of 134 Currier street, N. E., was shot. He had been walking along Piedmont avenue with a young woman when two Negroes, one armed with a pistol and the other with a knife, accosted the couple and forced them to the school lawn, police were told. There, while one of the assailants forced McCray to lie down, the other assaulted the young woman, and, in turn, the other Negro assaulted her, the account continued. 5-22-44

A soldier, Arthur Hector, of Fort McPherson, attracted by the woman's screams, started to aid her. Seeing Hector coming, one of the assailants shot McCray through the chest, near the heart. Then both assailants fled. Previously, they had rifled the young woman's handbag and had taken $15 from it.

Police learned that earlier in the day McCray had an argument with some Negroes at 173 Pine street, N. E. They arrested four Negroes at that address. They are: X. L. Everett, 27; G. P. Collier, 27; Clarence Boggs, 27, all of the Pine street address, and David Billingsley, 43, of 183 Merritts avenue, N. E. Acting on additional information, they later arrested 10 Negroes at a house at 182 Jackson avenue, N. E.

Hide Rapist-Slayer From Mob Peril

World-Telegram
New York, N.Y.
5-29-44

By the United Press.

TEXARKANA, Tex., May 29.—A 30-year-old Negro cemetery caretaker was held for safekeeping in an unnamed East Texas jail today after he admitted, police said, the murder and rape of a 22-year-old Texarkana housewife.

The Negro, George Johnson, told officers he had fatally bludgeoned Mrs. May Boatwright, wife of a railway mail clerk, last Wednesday when she resisted his advances, then criminally assaulted her as she lay dying.

Negro Admits Lust Murder Of White Girl

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
2-25-44

Prisoner Of Mississippi Officers Describes Attack

PASCAGOULA, MISS., Feb. 24.—(AP)—Sheriff D. O. Newman said tonight that Henry Lee Wiley, 21-year-old negro, had confessed to the murder and assault here last October of Nollie Opal Ricks, 13.

Wiley, who was convicted in city court Tuesday on a charge of accosting a white woman here, was later questioned "for several hours," Newman said "when we

7170

NEGRO DOOMED FOR RAPE IS SAVED BY IKE

Chicago Tribune 6-18-44

[By Wireless to the New York Times and The Chicago Tribune.]

LONDON, June 17. — Gen. Eisenhower has set aside a death sentence passed by a court martial of one colored and seven white officers on a Negro corporal accused of rape. Eisenhower held that the evidence in the case, which has been criticized by British Liberal and Leftist weeklies, was insufficient to justify the death penalty, but he did not reverse the court's verdict. 6-18-44

The corporal, Leroy Henry, was charged with raping an English housewife near Bath. He testified he had had intercourse with his accuser two or three times before for a consideration. The woman made her first accusation against Henry when her husband awakened and found her near where she said she had been forced over a wall.

Gen. Eisenhower said he was sure a review of the evidence would result in amelioration of the sentence.

Soldier Is Freed Of Rape Charge

Informer — Houston, Tex. 3-11-44

DENVER.—(ANP)— The Denver Branch NAACP scored another victory last week at Fort Warren and before the court-martial which was trying Pfc. James Wilson on alleged assault with intent to commit rape upon a white girl, age 16. After court-martial proceeding which lasted from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Pfc. Wilson was acquitted on all of the specifications charged in the bill against him.

The information of the charges against this soldier hardly reached the office of William R. Turner, president of the local NAACP branch before he issued the call for his executive committee, and they in turn authorized Atty. Samuel D. Menin, one of the branch's legal staff, to proceed to Cheyenne, and to represent the soldier in the case. 3-11-44

The following is a part of Mr. Menin's statement of the case: "The girl during the course of the trail positively and without any reservation whatever identified the soldier as having ben her assailant. Against this testimony was offered testimony on behalf of the soldier to the effect that he was in his barracks on the night in question and was seen by others to undress preparatory to going to sleep.

There was also testimony by the girl to the effect that the soldier had on a soldier's blouse with pfc stripes on it, and because this boy was a pfc and becase she recalled his gait in walking and his so-called southern accent, and becuase she further recalled that he had thick lips, she was most positive that he was the boy. 3-11-44

However, further investigation by me led to the introduction of testimony showing that on the day of the night in question the boy sent his blouse to the cleaners, where it was at the time of the alleged assault. In view of all the evidence and in view of the fact that the boy had an excellent reputation as a hard worker and a good soldier, the court, after a lengthy trial, which lasted from 8:30 in the morning until about 8 p.m. the same evening, acquitted the accused on all of the specifications charged.

Jailed As Rapist Of Woman, 100

Chicago Defender Chicago, Ill. 3-18-44

WHITEVILLE, N. C. (ANP) — Henry Lewis, a resident of Chadbourn, was jailed last week for criminally attacking Mrs. Anne King, who claims to be 100 years of age.

According to the aged woman, Lewis volunteered to show her the way to a certain farm and on the way dragged her into a wood and attached her. Lewis was jailed and held without bond.

Florida Rape Trial Transferred To Protect Negro Defendants

News Age-Herald — Birmingham, Ala. 8-27-44

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—(AP)—Circuit Judge W. May Walker and State Atty. Orion C. Parker, Jr., of Tallahassee, will go to Gainesville next Wednesday to start proceedings for the delayed and transferred trial of three Negroes charged with raping a white woman in Gadsden County July 30.

Gov. Spessard L. Holland assigned the two court officials to the Alachua County Circuit Court for an indefinite period beginning Monday to dispose of the case, but Judge Walker said it will take until Wednesday to get the case record transferred to Gainesville. He will set the new trial date and draw a jury venire then.

Judge Walker granted the change of venue Thursday when officers who had custody of the Negroes notified the court in Quincy several hours after the trial was to begin that they had been unable to produce the defendants in court, and witnesses testified there would be bloodshed if there was an attempt to bring them into Gadsden County.

* * *

THE ST. PETERSBURG INDEPENDENT REPORTED Saturday that armed posses of Gadsden County citizens, including prominent business and professional men of Quincy, had defied state law enforcement officials to bring the prisoners into the county.

Gov. Holland reiterated a previous statement that so far as he knew there has been no identification of the men who blockaded two highway patrol cars and held their occupants for about an hour the night before the trial was to begin.

Gov. Holland said in announcing assignment of Judge Walker and State Atty. Parker to Gainesville that he was interested primarily in getting "this case disposed of as speedily and decently as we can in a fair and unbothered way. They are going to be protected over there (in Gainesville) just as fully as the court requests, and by as many state militiamen as heads of the State Guard consider necessary. 8-27-44

* * *

ABOUT 250 STATE GUARDS AND 60 HIGHWAY PATROLMEN were on duty in Leon and Gadsden County Thursday for the trial that was to be held in Quincy.

He said Col. E. D. Vestal and Lt. Col. Hugh L. Mays, who were in charge of the State Guard units "both were of the feeling that they could force their way" through parties of civilians patroling the roads between Tallahassee and Quincy "but to do so would result in an armed clash and heavy bloodshed."

"It would be an idle thing to fight their way through" in the face of belief by Qunicy's civic leaders that the Negroes could not get a fair trial after they were brought there.

Director J. J. Gilliam said Saturday that in addition to the two patrol cars previously reported stopped and held on the Midway Road halfway between Tallahassee and Quincy, another car had been stopped by an automobile blockade early Wednesday morning on the road leading to Bainbridge, Ga., but was released immediately.

He said none of the men in the blockade parties had been recognized. 8-27-44

* * *

GILLIAM ALSO SAID THAT THROUGHOUT MOST OF WEDNESDAY NIGHT and Thursday, the highways to Quincy were not blocked but there were automobiles on all roads, on feeder roads, and parked in hidden spots that "were in a position to block the roads" at almost any time.

Gov. Holland previously had said there seemed to be "a carefully laid plan" to seize the three Negroes.

The defendants, Fred Lane, 19, James Davis, 16, and James Williams, 26. They are accused of forcing a 20-year-old wife of a soldier from her car near Chattahoochee, assaulting her, shooting her twice in the head and leaving her in the woods. She later made her way to the highway and reported the attack. She has recovered and will be a witness at the trial.

Hunt 3 Negro Rapists For Kidnaping Girl, 15

Defender — Chicago, Ill. 8-26-44

Three Negroes were sought by police yesterday for abducting a 15 year old high school girl in a sedan at Grand av. and Fairbanks ct. Wednesday night and raping her in a vacant lot at 93d st. and Wentworth av. She said she was raped nine times.

Negro Trio Faces Trial On Charges Of Assault

News — Birmingham, Ala. 8-31-44

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—(AP)—In a heavily-guarded courtroom, the trial of three Negroes accused of criminally attacking and shooting a 20-year-old white woman was scheduled to start here Thursday.

Victim of the alleged attack, near Chattahoochee July 30, was the wife of an Army sergeant. Recovered from superficial head wounds, she is scheduled to be the principal trial witness.

The accused Negroes are Fred Lane, 19; James Davis, 16, and James Williams, 26.

NEGRO IS CONVICTED OF ATTEMPT ASSAULT

Post — Washington, D.C. 9-18-44

By United Press.

EUFAULA, Sept. 13 — Simon Hawkins, Negro soldier from here, on furlough from a New Jersey Army camp, was found guilty in the Barbour County, Alabama, court of attempting to assault a white waitress.

2 HELD TO JURY IN OUTER DRIVE RAPE-ROBBERY

Tribune — Chicago, Ill. 8-12-44

John M. Hardy, 19, of 3441 Calumet av., a mechanic's helper, and Robert Thompson, 21, of 3640 South Park way, both Negroes, were held to the grand jury yesterday on a charge of rape and robbery. Bond of each was set at $20,000. They were identified by Miss Viola Gobry, 18, of 924 E. 42d pl., who said the pair robbed her escort, Herbert Jahnke, 24, of 6630 Oakley av., and attacked her at 41st st. and the Outer dr. Aug. 1. Judge Joseph B. Hermes in Boy's court heard the case.

FREED AT 4TH TRIAL FOR RAPE

Defender — Chicago, Ill. 4-22-44

ATLANTA (ANP)—Tried four times on charges of criminally assaulting a white woman, convicted, and sentenced twice and winning a mistrial the third time, 22-year-old L. L. Clark, an employee of the war department, is now a free man.

Clark was given his freedom Monday during a hearing before Superior Judge Paul S. Etheridge, who was the presiding jurist at the last trial which ended in a mistrial. Clark was charged with assaulting a white woman last October. The woman identified Clark as her assailant and in his first trial was found guilty and given a 15-year term. Winning a new trial, he was again convicted this time receiving a life sentence.

He won his second appeal and the third trial ended in a hung jury. He was then permitted to return home after signing his own bond. The appellate court refused to uphold each conviction because the justices held it was physically impossible for Clark to have been the woman's attacker. 4-22-44

Clark, who is employed at the Chandler warehouse, now taken over by the war department for a quartermaster depot, was allowed to return to his wartime job after winning his freedom, unusual in a case of this kind in Georgia.

Man Charged With Norfolk Rape, Murder

Post — Washington, D.C. 10-9-44

Norfolk, Va., Oct. 8 (AP).—Leroy Davis, 25-year-old Negro, yesterday was charged with the murder Wednesday night of Eugene Hoard, a sailor, and the rape of Hoard's 15-year-old girl companion. He also has been booked on the charge of grand larceny of an automobile.

Charlie Jones, 16, Negro, is being held at the City Farm also on the charge of grand larceny of an automobile.

Detective P. W. Adams said Jones admitted being with Davis Wednesday night and both confessed, he said, to the larceny charges, but both deny having been on the Memorial golf course, where Hoard's body was found after the girl reported they had been attacked.

The two admitted stealing a car in Chesterfield Heights, Detective Adams said, and towing it to a spot near the golf course where they stripped it of its wheels. 10-9-44

The victim of the assault has been unable to face the two men for identification because of her physical condition, police said.

Hoard, 18, fireman second class, stationed at the Naval Landing Force Equipment Depot, was found with his skull smashed, apparently by a heavy piece of wood. The girl said she was dragged to another part of the golf course where she was raped and beaten.

Negro Held For Assault

News — Birmingham, Ala. 4-1-44

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.—Walter Harris Otey, 17, Negro employe of a Negro undertaking establishment, being held in jail in connection with the criminal assault of a white woman.

Serviceman Convicted Of Rape Charge To Die On Gallows

New York 4-1-44

TOWNSVILLE, Australia.— Four soldiers and a merchant seaman have been convicted and sentenced to death by an Army court-martial for rape of a white American woman.

Reported that she had been raped with the five were riding. They drove out of town and the men were picked up by a truck in which

7/71

Young Wife's Body Found; Negro Held

Advertiser-
Montgomery, Ala. 5-29-44

TEXARKANA, May 28.—(AP)—The battered body of Mrs. Minnie May Boatwright, 22, was discovered near here early today shortly after a 30-year-old negro man confessed, police said, to assaulting and killing her last Wednesday.

The body was found in a shallow ditch and was covered with branches and oak leaves.

Police said Jack Boatwright, employe at the Texarkana Mail Terminal, reported to police Saturday night his wife had been missing since Wednesday night. The negro was arrested immediately at his home here.

According to police, the negro went to Mrs. Boatwright's home to talk with her about yard work. The negro said Mrs. Boatwright asked him if he knew where she might get some blackberries and he replied there was a blackberry patch three miles away and that he would take here there in his truck. 5-29-44

Officers quoted the negro as saying that about a quarter of a mile down the highway he made advances to Mrs. Boatwright and she began screaming. He struck her a blow in the forehead with a club, then hit her twice more and assaulted her, police stated, as she was dying. 37L 6116

The negro was taken to an unannounced jail.

371-1944

Florida

7172

GUARD NEGROES AFTER MOB BARS FLORIDA TRIAL

Tribune - Chicago, Ill.
8-25-44

500 Militiamen Called to Prevent Violence.

Tallahassee, Fla., Aug. 24 [Special].—More than 200 Florida state guardsmen armed with machine guns and tear gas late today escorted three Negro men in a hurried removal to the state prison at Raiford after the start of their trial on charges of raping a soldier's wife had been temporarily balked by mob action.

High tension thruout the area also prompted Circuit Judge W. May Walker at Quincy to transfer the trial to Gainesville, about 160 miles southeast of here, after State's Atty. O. C .Parker Jr., had told him that "great bloodshed and loss of life might result" if the hearing were held in Quincy.

The Negroes, Fred Lane, 19, James Davis, 16, and James Williams, 26, are charged with taking the 20 year old white girl from her car the night of July 30 and each raping her. Then they shot her in the head, hid her body in a woods, covered it with twigs and branches and left her for dead, it was charged.

"Victim" Recovered.

However, her wound was only superficial and she has recovered. She is an employe at the state hospital for the insane at Chattahoochee. The attack took place near Chattahoochee, where she lives, as she was driving home from a beauty parlor appointment in Quincy.

8-25-44

The Negroes' trial was to have opened this morning at Quincy, seat of Gadsen county. But the defendants, who had been held in the Leon county jail at Tallahassee, 26 miles from Quincy, did not arrive for trial.

For nearly six hours the judge and venire waited for the Negroes. Then is was disclosed that law enforcement officers had attempted to take them to Quincy early this morning but had encountered a road blockade en route.

Kept Out of County.

"The officers were prevented from entering Gadsen county," Prosecutor Parker told Judge Walker, "by a large group of persons who appeared to be intent on preventing the Negroes from being tried."

Because of the tension over the case, Gov. Spessard L. Holland had announced that the court would be given adequate protection and yesterday called out seven companies of state guardsmen, about 500 men. The uniformed militiamen began assembling in Quincy late yesterday. During the night an early today about half of them moved to Tallahassee to reënforce the guards protecting the jail here.

8-25-44

Gov. Holland appeared personally at the Tallahassee jail this morning and conferred with Maj. Gen. Albert Blanding, head the action division of the state defense council; Gen. Vivian Collins, state adjutant general, and J. J. Gilliam, director of the state public safety department.

Following their meetings, the guardsmen took the Negroes to the state prison, 140 miles east of Tallahassee and 30 miles from Gainesville, where the trial now will be held.

371-1944 Georgia

7173

Youth Freed After 4th Trial for Rape

ATLANTA---Tried four times on charges of criminally assaulting a white woman, convicted and sentenced twice and winning a mistrial the third time, 22-year old L.L. Clark, an employee of the war department, is ~~xx/xxxx~~/now a free man.

Clark was given his freedom Monday during a hearing before Superior Judge Paul S. Etheridge, who was the presiding jurist at the last trial which ended in a mistrial. Clark was charged with assaulting a white woman last October. The woman identified Clark as her assailant and his first trial was found guilty and given a 10-year term. Winning a new trial, he was again convicted, this time receiving a life sentence.

He won his second appeal and the third trial ended in a hung jury. He was then permitted to return home after signing his own bond. The appelate court refused to uphold each conviction because the justices held it was physically impossible for Clark to have been the woman's attacker.

Courier---Pittsburgh, Pa. 4-22-44

37L-1944

New York

7174

3 Rape Woman In N. Y.;
1 Held

JERSEY CITY--Teddy Brown, 30, of 429 Jersey Ave., was arraigned before Magistrate Pinto in Felong Court, New York, last Thursday morning on a charge of rape. He was held in $5,000 bail for action of the grand jury.

Brown and two others not yet apprehended, are accused by Mrs. Ruby Henderson of 409 W. 144th St., New York City, of approaching her early last Thursday as she was walking along W. 145th St. and forcing her into an apartment at 225 West 145th St. There, according to Mrs. Henderson, she was raped by all three men.

The woman positively identified Brown as one of her assailants, police said. The Jersey City man was arrested by Patrolman Neal of the 32nd Precinct on information supplied by Mrs. Henderson.

Amsterdam News--New York
N. Y.

4-22-44

THE NATION

'Scottsboro' Frameup of 2 Negro Soldiers Charged

War Dept. Investigates Life Sentence of Pair in Pacific

PM - New York, N.Y.
3-20-44

By JAMES A. WECHSLER
PM's National Editor

WASHINGTON, Mar. 20.—War Dept. officials are weighing charges that two young Negro privates, court-martialed and sentenced to life imprisonment on a rape charge in New Caledonia, were the victims of a "Scottsboro" frameup in the U. S. Army.

The bizarre history of the case was brought to light today as the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People made public a brief lodged with Secretary of War Stimson accusing military authorities of "bias and persecution" and of "brutal coercion" in the treatment of the Negro youths.

The convicted soldiers are Frank Fisher, Jr., 21, and Edward R. Loury, 22. A court-martial sitting in New Caledonia found them guilty of rape last June, and the sentences were subsequently sustained by the theater commander at Melbourne, Australia. They are now imprisoned in the U. S. Penitentiary on McNeil Island.

Cite Lopholes

But Judge William H. Hastie, former civilian aide to Secretary Stimson and dean of the Howard University Law School, and Rep. Vito Marcantonio (ALP, N. Y.), jointly submitting the brief in behalf of the prisoners, flatly challenged the prosecution's case, citing glaring loopholes and contradictions in the evidence against the defendants and apparent suppression of favorable testimony.

Victim of the alleged rape was a native woman named Louise Mounien. Evidence developed at the trial conclusively reveals, the brief asserts, that she "consented to intercourse," "interposed no physical resistance," did not even make "verbal protests" and subsequently accepted payment from the soldiers. Medical inquiry also shows, it is charged, that she was suffering from gonorrhea before she met the two Negroes. The move to prosecute the Negro soldiers was initiated, according to the brief, by a white officer who had had intercourse with the same woman earlier the same evening.

White Officer

The incident leading to the prosecution occurred on the night of May 2, 1943. Fisher and Loury had attended a carnival in Noumea. They drove back part of the way in a reconnaissance car, then got out—with a third Negro soldier who was never identified—in the area known as "Prostitute Hill." The brief relates:

"Their attention was attracted to another soldier whose rank was not then discernible, and a woman, returning from the nearby bushes to a 'jeep' parked at the side of the road. As they were approaching the woman got into the jeep. The Negro soldiers entered into a conversation in English with her companion, who proved to be a white officer, Lt. Robert L. Engels. The conversation concerned the purchase of the sexual favor of the woman; and the testimony as to whether the discussion was friendly or unfriendly is in dispute.

"In any event, as a result of that conversation, the officer addressed the woman in French. She did not understand English and the Negro soldiers did not understand French. The woman got out of the jeep; whether willingly or unwillingly being a matter of dispute. In any event she walked, in company of the soldiers and [illegible] without protest or objection, to a more secluded spot in the area. There is dispute as to whether up to this time there was bargaining with te woman as to the price to be paid for her favors. But in any event she engaged in three separate acts of sexual intercourse with the three soldiers and accepted on the spot $3, therefor.

"It is uncontroverted that she offered no resistance, made no outcry, and made no attempt to attract the attention of two strangers who passed within a few feet of her while she was having sexual intercourse with one of the solders. The gathering broke up without harsh words or recriminations. One of the soldiers went so far as to flash his light so that the officer and the woman might more conveniently get back to the jeep and go their way.

'Over Her Objection'

"Thereupon, the officer, who also came under the observation of the strangers who had passed nearby and who might have been recognized by them, insisted to his companion that they drive to military police headquarters. However, in her subsequent sworn statements before a French magistrate she testified that this was done over her objection.

The woman admitted to the French magistrate who first heard the case, Hastie and Marcantonio declared, that she had intercouse with Lt. Engels—the white officer—twice during the three hours "immediately preceding her involvement" with the Negroes. Moreover, she also acknowledged at the same hearing "that she had had intercourse with Engels daily for 10 or more days preceding the alleged rape, although he says that she was a pickup whom he had met the first time that day and who immediately consented to have intercourse with [illegible] as a "frightened innocent," the brief asserts that she was "a young woman of loose morals, accustomed to daily cohabitation with casual acquaintances among military personnel."

Woman Reluctant

It points out that she was reluctant to level any charges against the Negroes and had testified: "It was my friend, the lieutenant, who in spite of my refusal, wanted to go to the military police."

Citing her acceptance of money from the Negroes, the appeal declares, "there is no case in Anglo-America jurisprudence in which a conviction of rape has been permitted when payment had been offered and accepted on the spot."

Three crucial experts "relevant both as to the woman's credibility as a witness and as to the fact of rape" were withheld from the court-martial, Stimson was told.

Two of these reports dealt with a medical examination given to the women at the Noumea Hospital less than 24 hours after the alleged rape. The surgeon found that "her body showed no sign of violence and nothing from a medical point of view to indicate that she had been raped." In both of these reports the surgeon indicated that she was infected with gonorrhea.

A third report disclosed that she had been suffering from gonorrhea before her encounter with Lt. Engels and the three Negroes.

Other Circumstances

In addition to the suppression of these findings, a series of other circumstances was outlined in the brief as confirming charges of bias and coercion:

¶ Capt. John F. Saxon, the investigating officer, who had the advantage of examining all those involved within a short time after the incident, reached the conclusion that the evidence did not warrant [illegible] recommendation was ignored.

¶ Affidavits submitted by Fisher and Loury showed that their trial was launched less than one day after they had met their defense counsel—and before he had time to conduct an independent inquiry or to examine the evidence Capt. Saxon had obtained.

¶ The same affidavits show that the most brutal and plainly unlawful coercion was employed by military personnel to force incriminating statements from the petitioners. This "third degree" is alleged to have included "threats, grilling for five days with only a few hours sleep and the brandishing of fire arms."

¶ Interpreters at the trial "revealed their share of the determination of the military command to obtain a conviction." When Louise Mounien was asked whether she had tried to prevent Fisher from taking her out of the car in which she was sitting, she replied "no." The interpreter then rephrased the question—on his own initative—to get an affirmative reply. Discrepancies in the testimony offered by Lt. Engels and the woman—including disagreement as to whether any of the Negroes was armed—also were reviewed at length in the brief.

No Criminal Record

Summing up their plea to Stimson, Hastie and Marcantonio recalled that both Fisher and Loury had volunteered for Army service and that neither of them had any past criminal record. They added:

"Thus we have two Negro youths who have volunteered for the Army and have been taken nearly 8000 miles from their homes, suddenly brought to trial for a serious offense. They had no Negro chaplain to whom they might turn for counsel. There was no Negro officer to whom they might look for aid in their defense.

"Limited in education, thousands of miles away from home in a strange environment where a strange language is spoken, these Negro boys found themselves walled in by hostility—a hostility born of every fact of racial segregation practiced in the Army of the

MORE

IN PM TODAY

	Pages
National News	3-6
Foreign News	7-10
New York News	11-12
Picture Magazine	13-17
Otto Zoff	16
Letters	17
Food, Shopping News	18-19
Amusements	20, 21, 23
Radio	21
Joe Cummiskey	22
Tom Meany	22
Comics	22-23
Tom O'Reilly	24

Private's Letter to NAACP

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Mar. 20.—Following is the letter which the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People received from Pvt. Edward L. Loury after he was court-martialed and sentenced to life imprisonment on a charge of rape. On the basis of this letter the NAACP investigated the case and concluded that both Loury and Frank Fisher, Jr., another Negro private sentenced for the same offense, had been "unjustly and unlawfully convicted." The letter is printed below exactly as received by the NAACP:

"Dear Sir:

"I am writing you for your helped as a citizen of this country and a member of the military service. I was tryed under the Ninety-second Arctic of War, for rape June fifteen nineteen forty three, out in the Southwest Pacific and was sentenced to life at McNeil Island but sir that all for something that I did not do. The woman stated in court that I paid her. I would like for you to look into my case there in Washington and see what you can do for me. I volunteer into the service at the age of eighteen as trying to do my part in this war but seem that they got me mixes up. If it is possible you can see the pardon attorney there in Washington and work together on this case of mine so I can get back to duty as soon as possible. Sir if I had really rape the woman I wouldn't be asking you to help me in this cause I think that if a man is that low he should spent life in some institutions. But myself I have four sisters myself and would hate afful bad if someone attack any of them. In any way sir this woman that they say I raped is making her living sell—her bobie to soldiers of the United States today. She is a well known positute of the island. Any soldier can tell you what kind of woman she is anyway you want to go no diffidence with her that just the kind of woman lif she live out to get five or ten dollars from the frist soldier she met. White or colored. I happen to be a colored soldier try for this woman. I have a friend here at this institutions who know this woman well. He have been on that island eighteen months. So please investigate my case and let me know if I can get back to duty.

"Thank you very much.

"Edward R. Loury."

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

CONTINUED

Soldier Case

United States and in civil life in America.

"They were tried and convicted. And the final opportunity open to them for a review of their trial and conviction had its locus in Melbourne, Australia, several thousand miles away from New Caledonia, where they were tried, and several thousand miles more away from continental United States. It was here, in a review by white officers, that two uneducated Negro youths had their right of final appeal concluded against them."

At the direction of Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson, hearings in the appeal for clemency were conducted here last month by Col. Philip McCook, prior to submission of the brief. The Negroes were represented at the hearing by Judge Hastie, Marcantonio and Leslie Perry of the NAACP.

At the hearing it was charged that American military authorities forced an alleged "confession" out of the youths, convicted them on "flimsy" evidence and handed down "a harsh and unreasonable sentence solely because they were Negroes."

Sample of 'Victim's' Testimony of 'Rape'

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Mar. 20.—This is a sample of the testimony by Louise Mounien, alleged rape victim, on which the two Negro soldiers were convicted. It is cited in the brief submitted to Secretary of War Stimson by Judge William Hastie and Rep. Vito Marcantonio:

Q. Before the soldiers took you to the bushes were you afraid of them?

A. Yes.

Q. Why?

A. I was afraid they would hurt me.

Q. Were you afraid of the three soldiers?

A. Yes.

A. Why?

A. Because they might do me injury.

Q. Why did you not cry out when the soldiers were at the car?

A. Because I was afraid they would hit me..

Q. Why did you think they would hit you?

A. Because I was afraid.

Waste paper is essential war material. Save your PM for the paper salvage campaign. Tie in bundles about 18 inches high.

Massage for Pigmy Hippo

tary Affairs Committee of the Senate may open its own investigation of the promotion of Lt. Col. Paul M. Bonner just two days after members of the Truman Committee demanded his dismissal from the Army.

Sen. Harry S. Truman (D., Mo.), one of the two Senators who called for discharge of Bonner on the Senate floor, is a member of the Committee. He also heads the Truman Committee investigating the war effort. With Sen. Homer Ferguson (R., Mich.), he investigated the "stupid" sale by Army officers of machine tools worth $1,721,000 for $36,924. After placing the blame on Bonner and other officers, the two Senators demanded that these officers be dismissed from the Army.

Blow to Prestige

The Army's action in promoting Bonner to the rank of full Colonel following Truman's demand is considered a blow at the prestige of the Truman Committee, which has done more to root out inefficiency and incompetence in the national defense program than any other single agency.

Sen. Truman said yesterday there is nothing his Committee can do about the Army's action, but he remarked pointedly that investigation of the promotion is within the powers of the Senate Military Affairs body.

"The promotion was pretty poor policy on the part of the Army," he declared.

'Due' for Boost

However, he admitted it came as no surprise to him. During the debate a week or so ago he pointed out that it has been the experience of his Committee that when they unearth evidences of inefficiency or incompetence the Army either

Bonner [illegible] his promotion just 48 hours aft[illegible] he had been denounced and his dismissal requested.

Those familiar with Army procedure with regard to promotions say that Bonner was probably "due" for a boost in rank and that it had undoubtedly been in "the works" for a month or more. Nevertheless, this normal procedure was not halted after the Truman Committee disclosures.

When Truman made details of the machine tool deal public on the Senate floor he remarked that "behind the sale we find a set of facts which show bungling and incompetency in the disposal of Army surplus material."

He placed a large share of the blame on Bonner, who is a former vice president and manager of a firm of silk and rayon weavers.

The tools were surplus material in the Studebaker plant which might have been used in war plants but were ordered sold. The sale was held last August, and Sen. Ferguson told the Senate that even the buyers bidding on the tools were amazed at the prices for which they got the stuff. And that Army officers in charge of the sale gave them a discount of 75 per cent even on their bid prices, which naturally were very low in the first place.

Small Business Still Kicks

The Dept. of Commerce considers small business "a persistent and hardy American institution" which is in no danger of being pushed out of the picture by wartime economic dislocation. The Department's monthly *Survey of Current Business* says that more than 500,000 small businesses have ceased to function since 1941 but adds that an analysis of long-term trends "suggests that small business will be able to recover, at least in part, from wartime reverses."

Willkie Stakes His All On Battle in Wisconsin

Fights Isolationists in Campaign to Win State's Primary

By NATHAN ROBERTSON
Staff Correspondent

EN ROUTE WITH WILLKIE, Mar. 20.—Wendell L. Willkie is staking his chances for the Republican Presidential nomination on a battle with the isolationists of Wisconsin for the state's 24 convention votes.

It's Willkie against the field in Wisconsin. The field includes Thomas E. Dewey, former Gov. Harold Stassen of Minnesota and Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Willkie himself recognizes that his chances depend to a large extent upon the outcome of this Wisconsin primary Apr. 4. He is making an intensive campaign trip into every section of the state.

The underlying issue of the campaign is Willkie's internationalism—his open declaration for an international organization after the war to assure peace. Wisconsin was strongly isolationist up to Pearl Harbor and still contains strong isolationist sentiment. The state has a big German vote. The La Follettes were isolationists, and still have a big following. All of Willkie's opponents—even the Stassen forces—are counting heavily on the isolationist opposition to Willkie. The Dewey campaign is being run by an out-and-out isolationist, and former speaker for America first—Fred R. Zimmerman, former Governor of Wisconsin and now Secretary of State.

Dewey Being 'Used'

Zimmerman is almost openly using Dewey to stop Willkie. He makes no secret of his opposition to the last Republican Presidential candidate, and plans to follow Willkie around the state fighting him.

Willkie spokesmen say Zimmerman and the Dewey slate are using Dewey to stop Willkie with the idea of ultimately helping Gov. John W. Bricker of Ohio, who is not entered in the Wisconsin race, or MacArthur.

Ralph Nelson of Superior, Wis., an early Dewey supporter who has swung to Willkie, has openly charged that Zimmerman and his gang are "conniving to establish a trading post at the Republican National Convention where they may make some secret deal with a dark horse candidate."

Zimmerman Touch

The Chicago *Sun* has charged that Zimmerman's hand is also behind the Stassen movement—that he is using Stassen to keep out of Willkie's hands votes that Willkie would get on the straight issue of isolationism. The *Sun* has noted that A. E. Smith, who is in charge of Stassen's campaign, is a close political ally of Zimmerman and is frequently to be found in Zimmerman's office.

Undoubtedly the Stassen candidacy will play into the hands of the Willkie opponents. But it seems to be a bona fide movement. There is much support, particularly in the Northern and Western parts of the state, for the man who is so popular across the state line in Minnesota.

I talked with Smith at some length. He denies he is an isolationist, although some of his views carry a trace of isolationist logic. He thinks there may be an issue between America's interest and the interest of the world in setting up machinery for peace. Regardless of the intent, Stassen's candidacy plays into the hands of the isolationists in the fight between Willkie and the Nationalist forces here.

MacArthur's Backing

MacArthur's candidacy is being handled by Lansing Hoyt, another isolationist, and is drawing support chiefly from the La Follette Progressives who follow the La Follette views on the international issues. Progressives who don't go along with the La Follettes on their isolationism, however, are supporting Willkie in this campaign.

Willkie is the only candidate with a full slate of delegates in the race. Dewey's coyness about his candidacy has left a Dewey slate of only 19 candidates out of 24, and four of them are unpledged. Stassen has 19 candidates and MacArthur 22 showing the extent of the anti-Willkie sentiment.

If Willkie can win 13 of the 24 delegates it will constitute a victory and keep him very much in the race for the nomination. If he should win substantially more than that, it would boom his candidacy, and show that he has strong pulling power among the people even in the isolationist mid-west. If he should get less than 13, his candidacy will definitely suffer.

Willkie's First Talk

Willkie's first appearance was at Richland Center in the heart of Wisconsin's prosperous western farm area, Saturday night. In a town of less than 5000 persons he was greeted by a throng of more than 3000, many of whom were in the hall two hours before he began speaking.

His speech did not evoke much enthusiasm. It was heavy discussion of the farm problem in which Willkie talked in generalities about the need for all out farm-production. It was not couched in rabble-rousing terms, in fact it didn't carry a line to draw applause, and it didn't.

He was speaking for a Wisconsin radio hook-up and his delivery while somewhat better than in 1940, was none too good. He dropped important words from his text. He let his voice drop. And he was as hoarse as though he was making the last of a series of speeches instead of the first. Realizing that he had not drawn more response, Willkie topped his speech off with a peroration, after he went off the radio. It was better but didn't draw any interruptions. In this peroration Willkie emphasized that he was appealing to Wisconsin voters to decide upon the issues, not upon the personalities of the candidates. He obviously was thinking of Roosevelt and Dewey.

Tax Simplification Advanced

Chairman Walter F. George (D., Ga.) said his Senate Finance Committee was working on a plan to eliminate the filing of quarterly income estimates by most taxpayers. George was enthusiastic about the plan of the House Ways and Means Committee to eliminate filing of returns by many taxpayers.

NEWS

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE

Hon. VITO MARCANTONIO, President
DOXEY WILKERSON, Vice President
LOUIS COLMAN, Secretary
ROBERT W. DUNN, Treasurer

112 East 19th Street, New York 3, N. Y.
STuyvesant 9-4552

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 28, 1944

1,100 LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS ASK CLEMENCY IN

"THE ARMY SCOTTSBORO CASE"

Eleven hundred leaders in religion, law, the arts, and labor, and civic and labor organizations joined this week in asking President Roosevelt to extend clemency to Privates Frank Fisher, Jr., and Edward R. Loury, defendants in "the Army Scottsboro Case."

This was announced by the International Labor Defense, whose president, Congressman Vito Marcantonio, is acting as counsel without fee for the two men. Congressman Marcantonio forwarded the endorsements to the President.

Fisher and Loury, two Negro soldiers, were sentenced in New Caledonia last year to life imprisonment on a charge of rape. Record of the court-martial showed the act involved constituted a commercial transaction with a prostitute, without the slightest element of "rape".

In an appeal to the War Department earlier this year, Congressman Marcantonio and Dean William H. Hastie of the legal department of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People secured reduction of the sentences to eight and ten years. The present appeal is directly to the President to exercise his constitutional powers by extension of full clemency.

(Editors: the enclosed brochure contains the full list of 1,100. You will undoubtedly find listed there persons well-known in your community, as well as many nationally prominent individuals. Names of labor and civic organizations are also given.)

In their appeal for clemency, Messrs. Marcantonio and Hastie said:

"The need for the highest morale among all Americans at this hour of Liberation of the continent of Europe demands removal of any reasonable doubt that Negro soldiers receive justice and fair play while serving America in her struggle for victory. A great contribution to this end will be your favorable action upon this petition for clemency. The many actions which you have so wisely taken to insure national unity and heighten the fighting morale of all Americans in the armed services and civil life, give us confidence that you will in this case grant an unconditional pardon to these two Negro soldiers."

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(37 L) Whole copy

For Equality of Military Justice

1,100 LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS JOIN IN ENDORSING APPEAL FOR CLEMENCY FOR PRIVATES FRANK FISHER, JR. AND EDWARD R. LOURY, VICTIMS IN "THE ARMY SCOTTSBORO CASE"

●

The "Army Scottsboro Case"

Frank Fisher, Jr., and Edward R. Loury are two young Negro army privates. Both volunteered in 1942. In 1943, while serving in the Pacific Theatre of War, they were charged with "rape," and sentenced to a dishonorable discharge and life imprisonment. They are now at the federal penitentiary at McNeil's Island, Washington.

Early in 1944, following a request by the two men and an exhaustive study of the record which convinced him that the entire case was a frame-up engineered by white-supremacy-minded army officers, Congressman Vito Marcantonio, acting as counsel for the two men and as president of the International Labor Defense, argued for clemency before an Army review board at Washington. Associated with him in the argument was Dean William H. Hastie, who is chairman of the Legal Committee of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People. A lengthy brief was filed in support of the argument.

On March 31, the Assistant Secretary of War reduced the sentences to eight years for Fisher, ten for Loury.

Uncontradicted testimony at the original court martial showed that the "rape" charged against the two men consisted of a commercial transaction with a prostitute for which she bargained and accepted payment.

Reduction of the sentences undoubtedly represented a compromise between the intransigence of white supremacy advocates in the war department, and other forces there who not only opposed the injustice involved, but realized the important effect of whatever action was taken on the morale of the Negro troops who constitute one-tenth of the armed forces, and on the morale of Negro people on the home front. As the brief filed by Messrs Marcantonio and Hastie stressed:

"The need for a high morale both in civil life in America and in our armed forces, essential to the cause of our nation's victory, makes it imperative that men in government positions of responsibility remove all cause for reasonable doubt among Negro Americans that the Negro soldier does not receive justice."

Under all the circumstances, reduction of the sentences (an important victory already gained) was in effect an admission of the innocence of the two men involved. Complete freedom and exoneration for them would provide a major lift to the morale of one-tenth the armed forces, one-tenth the civilian population.

On June 10, 1944, Congressman Vito Marcantonio, President of the International Labor Defense, and William H. Hastie, Chairman of the National Legal Committee of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People filed with President Roosevelt a petition for clemency for Fisher and Loury.

Washington, D. C.

June 10, 1944

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Roosevelt:

As counsel for federal prisoners Frank Fisher, Jr., and Edward R. Loury, now confined at McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary, we appeal to you for their unconditional pardon.

We earnestly believe these prisoners are innocent of the charges against them.

The prisoners are two Negro soldiers, who were 19 and 20 years old respectively at the time of their voluntary enlistment in the United States Army. They were convicted and sentenced upon the charges of rape by general courts-martial at Noumea, New Caledonia, after the officer in charge of their preliminary investigation had recommended that rape charges against them be dropped for lack of any evidence of coercion in any form.

The circumstances in their case show simply liaison with a woman of loose morals, who during the tryst sought seclusion from passersby rather than their assistance, who accepted pay for her favors and who herself never initiated a complaint against them. To characterize this commerce as rape offends common sense even as the punishment imposed denies common justice.

They were dishonorably discharged from the Army, made to forfeit all pay and allowances and sentenced to life imprisonment. On our appeal for clemency to the Secretary of War the terms of Fisher and Loury were reduced to ten and eight years, respectively.

During their confinement, prior to their trials, these soldiers were subjected to brutal "Third Degree" methods by the military police, including the brandishing of firearms, threats of bodily injury, withholding of bed covering and refusal to permit the prisoners the minimum requirements of sleep and rest over a period of five days and nights—as well as refusal of hospitalization ordered for one of the prisoners by Army medical authorities. It was at the end of this period that the prisoners signed statements—later used against them.

Grave and harmful doubts have been raised in the minds of Negro Americans and other Americans about the fairness of military justice.

The need for the highest morale among all Americans at this hour of Liberation of the continent of Europe demands removal of any reasonable doubt that Negro soldiers receive justice and fair play while serving America in her struggle for victory. A great contribution to this end will be your favorable action upon this petition for clemency. The many actions which you have so wisely taken to insure national unity and heighten the fighting morale of all Americans in the armed services and civil life, give us confidence that you will in this case grant an unconditional pardon to these two Negro soldiers.

They seek more than freedom. They seek their right as Americans who love their country to resume their faithful and loyal service in the fight for their country's freedom in the armed forces which you so ably serve as Commander-in-chief.

We know that your action in restoring their liberty will be received by the American people with patriotic gratitude and deepening respect for your leadership of our nation at war.

VITO MARCANTONIO
WILLIAM H. HASTIE

A copy of the clemency petition was sent to Fisher and Loury at McNeil's Island Penitentiary. On June 16, they themselves wrote to President Roosevelt.

From: Frank Fisher, Jr.
P. M. B. 16611
To: The Hon. Vito Marcantonio

June 18, 1944

Washington, D. C.

Hon. Sir:

This a copy of the letter I sent to the President on June 16th.

Your Excellency:

We wish to add our personal appeal for a pardon to you in person, along with that of our very able counsel, Congressman Vito Marcantonio of New York and Judge William H. Hastie of the NAACP, who through their magnanimous action in appealing to the Secretary of War for clemency in our behalf have already succeeded in having our sentences reduced from life imprisonment to terms of eight and ten years.

We believe that a review of the record of the investigation that culminated in this charge and the transcript of the ensuing Court Martial will reveal the ample sufficiency of our addressing this plea to you, our President, and Commander-in-Chief, for a complete pardon and restoration to duty as soldiers in the Army of the U.S.A. We both wish to assure you that despite our involvement and consequent suffering through this trouble, there is no rancor or malice in our hearts because of it. We are just as eager today to contribute our bit in this war of liberation as you so aptly termed it recently, as we were on the day of our enlistment.

We not only prayed for victory as you directed on D Day, we also prayed that your health remain robust so as to sustain you through your arduous duties.

We love our country and our people and fervently wish to resume our life as honorable soldiers. Hence our plea to you and our hope that through your kindly wisdom you find merit in our plea.

Very respectfully yours,

PVT. F. FISHER, JR., 16611
PVT. E. LOURY, 16612
P.M.B. Steilacoom
Washington.

Congressman Marcantonio wrote to a cross-section of prominent leaders in every walk of life, and to a large number of organizations, asking their endorsement of the clemency appeal.

Dear Friend:

The story told in the enclosed copy of an appeal for clemency on behalf of Frank Fisher, Jr. and Edward R. Loury, Negro soldiers, which I have filed with the President in co-operation with Dean William H. Hastie, is clear.

The question of equality in military justice which the case presents is one of the most burning before the American people today. Its solution will go far toward bringing about true unity of the American people, so essential to successful prosecution of the war. Every day that we are engaged in the gigantic struggle for the Liberation of Europe, and in our war against Japan in the Far East, makes the issue more urgent.

Loud and potent voices of disunity, the blustering and filibustering of white supremacists, will be raised to oppose the action which we ask of President Roosevelt. It will be assailed mercilessly by unprincipled forces.

To uphold the hand of the President in his effort to insure national unity and heighten the fighting morale of all Americans, we are asking for endorsements of this clemency appeal by leading Americans in every walk of life, in all parts of the country.

Will you join with me and with Dean Hastie in endorsing this appeal?

Sincerely,

VITO MARCANTONIO

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Eleven hundred endorsements were received and have been forwarded to President Roosevelt. They are listed on the following pages. Where the name of an organization follows the name of an individual, it is given for purposes of identification only, and is not intended to indicate endorsement by the organization itself.

List of names not filmed

MARCANTONIO TO TAKE FISHER-LOURY CLEMENCY APPEAL TO PRESIDENT

4-8-44

An appeal will be taken directly to President Roosevelt in the case of Frank Fisher, Jr., and Edward R. Loury, Negro soldiers sentenced to life imprisonment in New Guinea on "rape" charges, and whose sentences were reduced to eight and ten years respectively by the War Department on March 31.

This was announced by Congressman Vito Marcantonio, President of the International Labor Defense, and counsel for the two men.

(more)

Fisher and Loury were sentenced following a court-martial in which it was established the "rape" consisted of a commercial transaction with a prostitute, who was paid by them.

"The reduction in sentence of the two men, following our appeal for clemency, is a partial victory," Mr. Marcantonio said. "It is indeed a clear indication that the whole case against them was a fraud. In my opinion it represents a compromise between forces of unity in the War Department, and the intransigence of prejudiced Southern white supremacy officers.

"I am studying the decision, and upon the return of Judge William Hastie, who is associated with me in the case, full details of further action will be decided upon.

"But one thing is certain, and I can say as counsel retained directly by the two men, that a further appeal for clemency will be made, this time directly to the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, President Roosevelt.

"The heart of the case is still the same as was outlined in the brief on the petition for clemency filed by Judge Hastie and myself. In that brief we said:

"'The need for a high morale both in civil life in America and in our armed forces, as essential to the cause of our nation's victory, makes it imperative that men in government positions of responsibility remove all cause for reasonable doubt among Negro Americans that the Negro soldier does not receive justice. . . The petitioners are innocent of the crime of rape. There is no room in the United States Army for a "Scottsboro Case". The petitioners wish to be returned to the army to serve as soldiers in defense of their country.'

"That stands. The International Labor Defense was asked by these men to defend them. They have retained me as counsel. We shall carry on the fight without compromise until they are free and fully exonerated."

* * * *

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 233

37m-1944

Alabama Indifference In Rape Case Condemned

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

By EUGENE GORDON

The crime committed upon the person of Mrs. Recy Taylor, Alabama Negro mother, by a gang of white ruffians on Sept. 3, "was every bit as bestial as anything the Nazi supermen' ever perpetrated," Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., declared yesterday.

Councilman Davis was joined by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, member of the National Committee of the Communist Political Association and nationally-known writer on matters affecting women, and by Carl Ross, executive secretary of American Youth for Democracy.

"Alabama officials who refuse to prosecute these degenerates to the limit have the same kind of mentality as the Nazis," Davis said. "It shows that an inseparable part of our fight to destroy fascism means ending fascist practices in the United States." 11-23-44

Davis added: "We licked the white-supremacy Alabama officials once, in the Scottsboro case," and, with the people's help, "we'll lick them in this case, too." He congratulated the Daily Worker and the Worker for their "good work" in the Taylor case.

Miss Flynn recalled the "break-neck speed" with which Alabama had "tried" and sentenced to death the nine framed Scottsboro boys. The state went on with its plan to kill them, even after one of the alleged "rape" victims had exposed the whole business as a frameup.

"Alabama said it was protecting its womanhood. Well, Mrs. Taylor is an Alabama woman and wife of a soldier, yet the state is inactive and silent. Can anybody blame her for feeling that, as far as she is concerned, the Nazis could be no worse than the people who committed this horrible crime against her?"

Miss Flynn urged support of Saturday's conference at the Hotel Theresa, Seventh Ave. and 125 St., in Harlem, to center nationwide attention on this case. The ultimate result of the conference, she declared, must be prosecution of the criminals.

Carl Rose pledged the AYD's support of the Daily Worker "or any other group" whose purpose is to help establish in the United States "security and rights of our Negro citizens, North or South, whether civilians or wearing the uniform of our armed forces."

He called the official neglect of Mrs. Taylor "an example of lynch justice."

Parley Saturday on Taylor Rape Case

The Daily Worker has invited about 40 persons to a conference Saturday morning, Nov. 25, at the Hotel Theresa, Seventh Ave and 125 St., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 11-23-44

Ways and means will be devised for procuring justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor and of ending a widespread system by which Negro womanhood has been degraded since slavery days.

Alabama

Groups Demand Justice In Alabama Rape Case

The case of Mrs. Recy Taylor, 22 year old mother and wife of a US soldier, who was kidnapped and raped Sept. 3, by six white hoodlums in Abbeville, Ala., has already taken on nation-wide significance after being suppressed for several months following the grand jury exoneration of her attackers. Last Saturday a conference of Negro and white organizations met at the Hotel Theresa to consider ways and means to achieve equal justice for Mrs. Taylor and all Negroes in the South.

The conference that included representatives from civic and religious bodies as well as the CIO, AFL and the American Labor Party adopted adequate resolutions and named a delegation to go to Alabama and protest the case to the governor and authorities and get first-hand information on it. While in the South the delegation has been instructed to attend the annual meeting of the Southern Youth Congress to be held at Atlanta Nov. 30 to Dec. 3.

Resolutions Sent

Resolutions of protest were sent to the governor of Alabama, U.S. Attorney General Biddle, the War Department, and the two Alabama Senators. Telegrams were sent to the CIO and AFL annual meeting now in session. The conference urged that organizations and individuals everywhere wire protests.

Delegates to the conference emphasized that in the light of the election results, the splitting of the South over progressive issues, the part the Negro is playing in the war, and the impending significance of the color question in the Pacific war, the time is now ripe to spearhead a movement to demand full and democratic rights for the American Negro at home.

The resolution to Attorney Biddle reviewed the facts of how Mrs. Taylor had been bodily forced into a car at midnight by a gang of white men bearing a gun and knives, taken to a lonely spot and raped by each one.

The communication to the Attorney General read in parts:

"Such incidents, as you know, can be of no help to national unity, and we are sure your interest in unity parallels our own. The Negro people, victims in a series of outrages recently, can hardly be expected to maintain morale if both Federal and State government remain indifferent to such situations.

COMPARES SCOTTSBORO

"We think that in the light of the need for harmony among peoples during such a critical time and in the interest of staving off further attacks on Negroes anywhere, your department would do well to look into the case."

The resolution to Governor Sparks said: "Ala-

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bama 'justice and the Constitution of the United States have been flouted in Abbeville," and called upon him "to take cognizance of this case and to see that punishment according to the laws of the State of Alabama" is meted out to the rapists.

New York City Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr. who for three years has worked on the Scottsboro case, in a message to the conference said: "This crime against Mrs. Taylor is as bad as any Nazi brutality seen in the war. This is another.

Scottsboro case, only in a different way. We beat them on the first Scottsboro case and we must beat them in this case, but more decisive is mobilizing the forces of labor, the people and the decent white Southern sentiment."

The People's Voice N. Y. C. 12-2-44

Alabama Case Stirs Negro Leaders

By EUGENE GORDON

What happened to Mrs. Recy Taylor, when a gang of white hoodlums near Abbeville, Ala., kidnaped her on Sept. 3, stripped off her clothing and took turns at raping her, "is a typical case of brutality against the helpless Negro" in certain sections of the South.

That was the considered statement yesterday of Edward R. Dudley, assistant special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mr. Dudley declared the NAACP every week receives "scores and scores" of appeals for protection against such brutality.

He regretted to admit, he said, that local authorities, "hiding behind the screen of states' rights" are usually safe from what they call "federal interference" while arrogantly refusing, themselves, to take action.

Mr. Dudley said that local branches of the NAACP, working with other organizations on the spot, should force town, county and state authorities to act in the Taylor case.

Mrs. Mable Staupers, executive secretary of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, was emphatic in insisting that the Southern Negro Youth Congress and the NAACP "look into the Taylor rape case and develop plans for bringing action against the perpetrators of this awful crime."

The Youth Congress, with national offices in Birmingham, has alone uncovered most of the facts the Daily Worker has been able to present. The congress has worked with the Birmingham NAACP on numerous cases.

George Marshall said that the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, which he heads, is investigating the crime "in conjunction with Southern leaders."

"The failure of the Alabama authorities to punish the known rapists of Mrs. Taylor is a damnable miscarriage of justice," declared Moran Westen, field secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee. He was "mad clear through," he said.

"We shall not permit that crime to go unchallenged," Weston promised, adding: "We join the Daily Worker in its demand for justice and we condemn those sections of the press, so quick to spread slanders of rape against the Negro people, for their hypocrisy in not exposing this case."

Weston said the trade union movement in particular "must help arouse the conscience of America and bring Mrs. Taylor's attackers to swift punishment."

The Daily Worker was commended also by Miss Thelma Dale, executive secretary of the National Negro Congress, "for its almost single-handed fight in this case." Dale called for punishment of "those guilty of this horrifying crime" and for every support of every effort to bring the South into the orbit of American democracy."

She named the labor movement, the Southern Negro Youth Congress, the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, and the National Negro Congress as organizations which should pool all efforts in bringing Mrs. Taylor's attackers to justice.

"Mobilization of the masses of Negro and white Southerners for the realization of their full democratic rights is the only insurance against periodic repetition of such crimes," Miss Dale said.

Teen-Age Girls Raped By Two Whites In Ala.

By John LeFlore

EVERGREEN, Ala.--Two white men, who posed as police officers, picked up tow teen-age Negro girls, drove them to a secluded spot and raped them last week, have been allowed to go scot free by local police officials.

Fourteen-year-old Rosie Mae Gill tearfully told this writer how the town marshall made no attempt to stop the attackers' car when the men later released her and 12-year-old Annie Mae Marblet, her companion.

"We were on our way home from service at the New Mt. Zion AMEZ church with Jesse Williams, a young man we know, when tow white men drove up in a car and made us stop," said Rosie Mae.

"They asked us what we were doing out so late, and I told the, we were on our way from church. They asked Jesse how old he was, and he told them 18 years old. They said they didn't believe him, so Jesse took out his draft classification card and showed it to them. Then the men told Jesse to go on about his business, because they had to take Annie Mae and me down to the jail for being out so late at night."

BOTH RAPE OLDER GIRL

The child then told how the two white men, who had posed as officers headed the car down the highway toward the woods, and when about four miles from town, turned into a lonely little used road, drove to a secluded spot and stopped.

Rosie Mae then related how she was forced to get out of the auto, taken a distance away from the car by one of the men, and attacked.

She further stated that the other man kept Annie Mae in the car and attempted to attack her, but gave up when the child cried aloud in pain. The second man also forced the older girl to submit to his advances.

In the meantime, the youth, Jessie Williams, had run to Rosie Mae's home and told her mother, Mrs. Catherine Gill, of the supposed arrests. The mother and other members of the family immediately went to the jail, but were told the girls were not there, nor had they been put on the docket.

JOKE ABOUT ATTACK

About an hour later, A. K. Williams, white night marshal, picked up the two girls on Magnolia avenue, after they had been put out of the attackers' automobile. However, the marshal made no attempt to stop the car, Rosie Mae stated.

The child also charges that Sheriff Greely Moore and several of his deputies who made an "investigation" of the case the following day, joked about the attack and made lewd remarks in the presence of the victims.

When they returned to the court house both girls were forced to sign a paper which was so folded they could not read it. The mother was not allowed to be a part of the proceedings. Mrs. Gill reported that her daughter was painfully injured by the attackers.

Although the two men are believed to be known to the officers, no arrests are known to have been made.

Defender Chicago, Ill: 8-12-44

37m-1944

Alabama Officials Feel People's Pressure in Mrs. Taylor Case

Daily Worker New York N.Y. 12-12-44

By EUGENE GORDON

Gov. Chauncy Sparks' fear of newspaper publicity in the Abbeville, Ala., rape case indicates the extent and weight of pressure being directed at him from all sections of the United States.

The Governor, in his interview with me late Friday afternoon in the state capitol at Montgomery, agreed with his Attorney General that they wanted no publicity. They wished to make their investigations, they said, and decide on what action to take, all without the Daily Worker or the Negro press saying even that the state's highest officers were interested.

E. G. Jackson, editor of the Alabama Tribune, Birmingham, laughed grimly when told of these gentlemen's wishes. He said:

"I don't blame them. Think how long the case has been unknown to the people already because it got no publicity. He knows it was pressure resulting from the little publicity the case has got that made him tell you that he and the Attorney General would investigate this rape."

ORGANIZING SENTIMENT

Mr. Jackson, one of the most enterprising and resourceful Negro editors in the South, did not himself know of the case until the Daily Worker reporter informed him of it a week ago. Now, however, he is among the most effective agencies in the South in organizing sentiment in support of the rape victim.

Mrs. Recy Taylor, attacked by a gang of white hoodlums three months ago and unable, during all that time, to get the state to act, is receiving the sympathy of Negro women throughout the South.

I found people in Birmingham, Montgomery and other Alabama cities and towns talking about the case as a result of information brought back by delegates to the Sixth All-Southern Conference in Atlanta Nov. 30-Dec. 4. Young people, I learned, were asking their churches to act in the case.

The Associated Negro Press last week distributed to its membership of more than 200 weeklies and a circulation exceeding 3,000,000 the story of the meeting called at the Hotel Theresa Nov. 25 to organize the campaign now under way.

Earl Conrad, author of Harriet Tubman and member of the press committee of the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, yesterday sent the Associated Negro press the story of Gov. Sparks and his Attorney General's pledge to investigate the Abbeville rape case.

Wherever the facts of the case become known, the people immediately organize pressure for action.

What You Can Do To Win Justice

The campaign to force the state of Alabama to listen to Mrs. Recy Taylor's appeals for justice is beginning to be felt in the Judicial Building and in the State Capitol at Montgomery. The Governor and the Attorney General of that state have promised to investigate.

The people, meanwhile, must continue organising pressure to force action. They should:

- ***Send letters, telegrams and resolutions to Gov. Chauncy Sparks, State Capitol, Montgomery, Ala., and to Attorney General William N. McQueen, Judicial Building, Montgomery, urging punishment of the criminals under Alabama law.***
- ***Watch their newspapers for notices of meetings called by various organizations and attend these meeting.***
- ***Send money contributions to Assemblyman Hulan E. Jack, treasurer, Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Racy Taylor, 112 E. 19th St., New York, N. Y.***

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It's Different When Negro Girl Is Raped By Whites

Miami Herald — Florida 12-23-44

By Albert Deutsch

There's a strange and terrible tale coming up from Alabama. It tells of a young mother, wife of a U. S. soldier, wh oallegedly was waylaid, on her way home from church, kidnapped and raped by six members of another race while her soldier husband, home on furlough, awaited her return.

If the skin color of the characters in this rustic tragedy were reversed, Southern chivalry would have been outraged beyond measure. Self-styled protectors of pure womanhood would have hastened to form necktie parties without waiting for the rape charges to be proved.

It happens, however, that the woman in the story is a Negro; the alleged rapists white. So nothing happens. Southern chivalry is unstirred. A cordon sanitaire of cold indifference and stony silence is built around the rape case of Abbeville, now three months old.

Here's how the story goes:

On Sunday night, Sept. 3, Mrs. Recy Taylor, 22, of Abbeville, Ala., was on her way home from church, accompanied by Mrs. Fannie Daniels, 61, and West Daniels, 18, when a car containing six white men pulled up alongside them on a lonely road. One of the men ordered Mrs. Taylor to get into the car.

According to Mrs. Taylor's story, pistols were brandished when she refused, and she was forced into the car. Then, she charges, the car was driven to a deserted spot about a mile outside Abbeville, where she was stripped of her clothing and raped by each of the six men. Mrs. Taylor says she was blindfolded driven away, and dumped, naked, on a dark Abbeville street.

Several of the alleged rapsts were later identified and named. Mrs. Taylor pressed charges against them. On October 9 the local Grand Jury met, listened to the testimony of Mrs. Daniels and her son, and forthwith dismissed the case.

While the truth of Mrs. Taylor's charges cannot be gauged at this distance with the paucity of evidence at hand, her case is well-nigh unique in the deep South. Fear of reprisal and a sense of futility regarding "white-man's justice" is amighty strong deterrent against Negro women preferring charges against white rapists.

The double-standard in rape cases is not confined to the South. Witness the blaring headlines, the chilled terror, here in New York a while back when a white girl was allegedly raped by Negro boys in Harlem, while a concurrent case of a Negro girl raped by three white men—all of whom were subsequently convicted — got scant notice in one or two metropolitan dailies.

There are a number of citizens, white and Negro, who refuse to let the case of Mrs Recy Taylor die. A Committee for Equal Justice for Recy Taylor, headed by Assemblyman Hulan Jack of New York, has been organized with headquarters at 112 E. 19th St., New York City.

Taylor Case Is Now Nation-Wide

The Worker — New York Sun 12-31-44

MRS. TAYLOR

The movement to force Alabama justice to act in the case of Mrs. Recy Taylor, Negro, abducted, stripped of her clothing and raped by a gang of white hoodlums on Sept. 3, near Abbeville, Ala., has spread into nearly half the states of the Union, according to the latest information from the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, 112 E. 19 St.

Sixteen states and the District of Columbia are now represented by sponsors, some of whom have initiated local action committees. These include Louisiana, where Local 206, Transport Workers Union of America, CIO, not only sent an appeal to the Governor of Alabama to punish Mrs. Taylor's attackers, but backed it up with a campaign to collect 10,000 signatures on a petition among the people of New Orleans.

SOUTHERNERS ACT

A committee has been set up also in Baltimore, while, in Birmingham the Alabama chapter of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare has mobilized sentiment among white people for pressure on Gov. Chauncy Sparks and his attorney general, William N. McQueen.

Sponsors of the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, and the states they represent, include the following: 12-31-44

Alabama.—Pauline Dobbs, Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

California.—W. J. Decker, secretary, San Diego Industrial Union Council, and Earl Robinson, author of Ballad for Americans and The House I Live In.

Connecticut.—Mrs. Ruth Dembo, vice president, New London Central Labor Union, AFL.

Colorado.—Reid Robinson, International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, CIO.

Florida.—Daniel R. Francis, editor, Miami Tropical Review, and Prof. Royal Wilbur France.

Illinois.—Earl Dickerson, former member state legislature; Rabbi David Graubert and William Henry Huff, lawyer.

Indiana.—Walter Frisbie, Greater Indiana State Industrial Union Council.

Kansas.—Rev. John Warren Day.

Louisiana.—Herman C. Gray, secretary, Transport Workers Union of America, CIO.

Massachusetts.—Rev. Stephen H. Fritchman; William Henry Harrison, associate editor, Boston Chronicle; Rex. F. Hastings Smyth.

Michigan.—Winifred L. Chappell, Peoples Institute of Applied Religion; Judge Lila M. Neuenfeldt.

New Jersey.—Wanda Gag, artist; Dr. Harry F. Ward.

N. Y. RALLY

The New York Age, the People's Voice and the Daily Worker will bring the attack on Mrs. Recy Taylor to public in New York's Renaissance Casino, 150 W. 132 St. Jan. 4 12-31-44

Addressed by Assemblyman Hulan E. Jack, Dr. Channing H. Tobias, Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Mrs. Louise McDonald, the Rev. David N. Licorish and Eugene Connolly, secretary of the N. Y. County American Labor Party, the meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. at the

IN THE DEEP, DEEP SOUTH, SIX WHITE MEN, PRESERVERS OF RACIAL PURITY, A NEGRO MOTHER 22 YEARS OLD, WIFE OF AN OVERSEAS U. S. SOLDIER, !!!

The Union — Cincinnati, Oh

Such rape is a story,
So often told,
That it always sounds new,
However old!

11-30-44

As a result of the failure of the State of Alabama to bring to justice six white rapists of Mrs. Racy Taylor, 22-year-old Negro mother and wife of a U. S. soldier, attacked over two months ago, some thirty individuals and organizations, Negro and white, North and South, will convene this Saturday between 10 a. m. and 1 p.m. at the Hotel Theresa in New York to find ways and means of enforcing Alabama justice.

On Sunday, Sept. 3, in Abbeville, Ala., between 11 and 12 p. m., Mrs. Taylor, mother of a 2-year-old daughter, was on her way home from church and with 61-year-old Mrs. Fannie Daniels and her 18-year-old son, West, when they were stopped near a deserted lot by six white hoodlums who emerged from a car brandishing pistols and knives and claiming that Mrs. Taylor was wanted by the sheriff. When she attempted to resist she was forced into the car bodily at the point of a gun. They threatened that they would "'shoot her damn head off" if she continued to resist.

11-30-44

Driven to a lonely spot about 1½ miles from the town, Mrs. Taylor was stripped of her clothing and raped by each of the six assailants while she pleaded for her husband's and baby's sake for them not to kill her. Early in the morning she was dumped blindfolded and naked on a streetcorner.

After Mrs. Taylor had been kidnapped, old Mrs. Daniels and her son hurried to the home of a white man, Will Cook. Hearing her story he asked her to stay with his sick wife while he and another white man, Bennie Corbitt, and Mrs. Taylor's father sought High Sheric Gamble. Unable to find him, they got Deputy Sheriff Louis Corbitt.

11-30-44

They found the driver of the car, Hugo Wilson, who confessed and named the other rapists as Penute Hasting, Skipper Reeves, Dillard York, Luther Lee and two or three others.

On October 9 Grand Jury met and after the testimony of Mrs. Daniels and West Daniels had been heard, every member of the gang was exonerated.

11-30-44

Eugene Gordon, Negro reporter on the Daily Worker in New York, after working to focus national attention on this case, has decided to call this conference to break through apathy, fear and indifference to the rights of the Southern Negro. — New York Voice.

Justice Drive for Mrs. Recy Taylor Takes on National Scope

The Worker New York, N

12-17-44

By EUGENE GORDON

The campaign for justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, Negro wife and mother outraged by a gang of white hoodlums near Abbeville, Ala., more than three months ago, is developing into a mass movement to lift the economic and social status of all Negro women.

A resolution adopted Dec. 8 by the Fifth National Convention of United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, CIO in Philadelphia, is typical. It declares that the raping of Mrs. Taylor, with the failur of Alabama law authorities to act, "is not an isolated incident but is a symbol of the pattern of oppression which degrades" Negro womanhood throughout the South.

The Worker

The Findings Committee of the All-Southern Negro Youth Congress conference in Atlanta two weeks ago agreed with that point of view. The committee appealed to the nearly 400 delegates from all sections of the South to return home and start a movement to emancipate the Negro women.

The Negro press, in the meantime, has carried stories and editorials about the case to every part of the country. The Associated Negro Press has been distributing to its membership of more than 200 weeklies and a circulation exceeding 3,000,000 the latest developments in the campaign.

12-17-44

Those developments include the promise last week by Gov. Chauncy Sparks and Attorney General William N. McQueen, of Ala., to make a "thorough and complete investigation" of the kidnapping and raping of Mrs. Taylor on the night of Sept. 3, last. Developments include

MRS. RECY TAYLOR

also a wire from the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, Nashville, Tenn., pledging the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, here, to carry on the campaign in the South.

Alabama's Governor and Attorney General made their promise to me in Montgomery, state capital, on Dec. 7, following my return from visiting Mrs. Taylor and witnesses of her kidnapping. The Governor's promise was first conveyed through his Attorney General, with whom I had an earlier appointment in the Judicial Building.

Anticipating my question, proof that the campaign to force action in the Taylor case had had results, Attorney General McQueen said that if I had come to see him on "that Abbeville matter" I "could rest assured that a thorough and complete investigation will be made by investigators working out of my office."

Gov. Sparks, whose office is on the first floor of the state capitol, one block above the Judicial Building, repeated McQueen's promise word for word. He said in a half-hour interview that he and the attorney general had just conferred on the matter. This, I felt, confirmed my surmise that Gov. Sparks and Attorney General McQueen had got together to discuss the case when he learned that a Negro reporter had made an appointment to see each of them.

Having admitted that he and his chief law official had conferred, the Governor said:

"This matter never reached me officially. I heard of it only by rumor, today. But I am determined to get an official report on it, and that is why I have ordered my best investigators to get to work on it."

Both he and his Attorney General felt, they said, that there should be no publicity.

That feeling was undoubtedly induced by the fact that the extent and the weight of pressure upon them, by telegram and letter from all sections of the United States, was having its effect.

E. G. Jackson, editor of the Alabama Tribune, Montgomery, said, when told of their wish:

"I don't blame them. Think how long the case has been unknown to the people already because it got no publicity. Sparks and McQueen know it was pressure, resulting from the little publicity the case has got, that made them tell you they would investigate this rape."

Mr. Jackson, one of the most enterprising and resourceful Negro editors in the South, did not himself know of the case until the Daily Worker reporter informed him. He is now, however, one of the most effective agencies in the South in orgahizing sentiment in favor of the rape victim.

News of the case will inevitably break into the commercial daily press, which, thus far, has studiedly ignored it. Only one New York daily, other than the Daily Worker, has said anything about it. PM has had two stories, one of which, by Albert Deutsch, was very good.

My interview with Mrs. Taylor in her home on the outskirts of Abbeville on Dec. 7 confirmed as correct all stories the Daily Worker and The Worker had carried about her case.

37m-1944

5 Whites Named as Rapists Of Negro Woman Still Go Free

Daily Worker — New York N. Y.

10-18-44

By ENGENE GORDON

While the legal lynching of three Negro youths is still fresh in the mind of the South, news leaks out that a few hundred miles from Raiford, Fla., where the alleged rapists were electrocuted, an Alabama woman has identified five youths as having attacked her.

The Florida woman's name was never made public.

The Alabama woman has been known to neighbors and friends—and to enemies—since Sept. 4, the day after she was forced, she swears, into a car and taken to the outskirts of Abbeville, Alabama, and raped.

She is Mrs. Recy Taler, 22, the same age as the Florida woman.

James Davis, 16; Fred Lane, 19, and James Williams, 26, were killed by the state for allegedly raping the Florida woman, after an 80-minute "trial," despite their pleas of innocence. They swore they had been beaten into signing a "confession" they had never read or heard read.

10-18-44

Mrs. Taler, however, is a Negro. The five youths she says raped her are white.

She was returning from church on the night of Sept. 3, she says, when five youths got out of a car—it evidently had been following her and her friends—and told her she was wanted by the sheriff "for cutting a white boy in the country."

She had been in town all day, she protested. But she was forced into the car and driven off. All raped her, she swears.

"They brought me back to town and blindfolded me and left me on a deserted corner. They told me to go home and that if I told anyone they would kill me."

The young woman told her father. He reported to the police who easily found the driver of the car. The youth was arrested. He was released the next day. None of the five—Billy Hilden, Robert Gamble, Dillard York, Pinuter Hasty and Luther Lee—has been molested either by the law or by what Southern newspapers describe as "irate citizens" when Negroes are involved.

10-17-44

She was driven to a lonely road, where they each attacked her. "They brought me back to town and blindfolded me and left me on a deserted corner," she said. "They told me to go home and that if I told anyone, they would kill me."

Woman raped at knife point

Tribune — Los Angeles

10-12-44 Camp

A harrowing story of rape at the point of a knife by the same man three times was told to police this week by Mrs. Helen Mae Holton, 21-year-old housewife of 1719½ Newton Street.

Mrs. Holton said she alighted from a street car at 14th and Long Beach Wednesday morning at 12:15 and was accosted by the man. Placing his knife at her throat, the man ordered her to come with him to a yard at 1705 Newton st. where she was forced to lie down in a flower bed.

The second and third assault took place beside a parked car in a driveway. The man questioned her as to her race, Mrs. Holton said, and said he wouldn't have bothered her had he known she was colored. Mrs. Holton said she made her escape when her assailant released her when he heard someone start up the sidewalk.

SIX MEN ABDUCT, RAPE ALA. GIRL, AGE 22

Birmingham, Ala. Daily Review

10-4-44

ABBEVILLE, Ala. — Threatened with death if she exposed the six white hoodlums who forced her into their car at gun point and attacked her on the outskirts of town a month ago, a young Negro woman last week identified her teen-age attackers in a statement, hoping to bring them to justice.

57m

The victim, Mrs. Recy Taler, revealed that the driver of the car, Hugo Wilson, was held in jail overnight, then released. His five companions were never arrested.

Mrs. Taler was returning from church with some friends on the night of Sept. 3 when the six youths drove up and told her she was wanted by the sheriff for "cutting a white boy in the county."

10-4-44

"I told them I had been in town all day," the 22-year-old woman stated, "but one of them pulled a gun and forced me into the car.

Crime In The Parks

Post — Washington, D.C.

10-9-44

Some good work must be credited to the police in Washington's latest rape slayings. They were fortunate in receiving from a taxi driver a switchblade knife reported to have been found on the floor of his cab after he had taken a Marine and a girl believed to be the one who was slain to East Potomac Park. The Marine, who is said to have been in possession of the knife, has been arrested and is reported to have admitted meeting the victim on a downtown street corner. Some details of the crime remain to be cleared up, but Major Kelly and his men are clearly entitled to commendation for their prompt and efficient action thus far.

Local residents were particularly disturbed by this brutal crime because it is the third fatal attack on women in or near Washington Parks in the last three months. The first remains unsolved and the second is surrounded by so much uncertainty that the police are now inclined to link it to the murder of Miss Berrum last week. No doubt the police are working hard on all three cases, but the frequency of these attacks clearly suggest that something more than running down rapists after their victims have been murdered is necessary.

Reports reaching us are to the effect that East Potomac Park and some of the city's other parks are the scene of many sex crimes every night. No doubt many of the victims fail to report their experience to the police. What seems to be needed is more adequate routine policing. We know that both the Park Police and the Metropolitan Police have suffered acute losses in personnel since the war began. Unquestionably they are short-handed. Nevertheless, it seems to us that this recent series of crimes should bring about a resurvey of the need for police in the parks both night and day. If they must have more men to protect the lives of citizens in public parks, their needs should again be made known. For the objective to be sought is certainly to prevent heinous crimes of this sort in preference to catching the murderers after the victims are dead.

7191

Rape Suspect's Wife Too Ill To Visit Him

Courier Journal Louisville, Ky.

10-9-44

Marine Is Silent On Death of Clerk

Washington, Oct. 8 (U.P.)—Doris Marie McFarland, 18-year-old wife of Pfc. Earl McFarland, marine veteran of the conquest of Guadalcanal, said tonight she could not believe her young husband was the rape-slayer of diminutive Dorothy Berrum, but that "if he did it, I want a divorce."

The ravished body of the 18-year-old Government girl from Chippewa Falls, Wis., was found Friday beneath a weeping willow tree in lonely East Potomac Park. She had been garroted.

Baby Just Died.

Interviewed today in his cell, McFarland, 21, who wears his wife's name tattooed on his left upper arm, refused to discuss his arrest but asked that notification be sent his wife, who lives with her parents in New Bern, N. C.

"We just lost our first baby," McFarland said, "and Doris is still sick, but I wish you would call her."

10-9-44

Mrs. McFarland, reached by telephone, said: "I can't come up to Washington to see him. I'm too sick, but I can't believe he did it."

She said that Earl, whom she met in February, 1942, when he patronized a doughnut shop where she worked, was "tickled to death" when he learned they were to have a child and that he visited her when the infant died a week after birth.

McFarland refused to discuss his war experiences, his wife said, and "seemed different" after his return from the South Pacific.

Suspect Is Orphan.

10-9-44

McFarland, an orphan from New Market, Tenn., said he served eighteen months as an assault engineer. His outfit, the 1st Division, won a presidential citation for valor on Guadalcanal.

He contracted malaria and was hospitalized in Australia and later in the United States and was "sometimes out of my head for two or three days at a time with a temperature of 106." He has been stationed in Washington since March 1.

Campaign Opens in Alabama Rape Case

The Worker 11-26-44

Mrs. Recy Taylor, of Abbeville, Ala., who was kidnaped, stripped of her clothing and raped by a gang of white ruffians on the night of Sept. 3, wrote to the Worker this week:

"I hope and trust God something will be done about it. I can't do anything about it."

That nightmarish crime against the wife of a soldier and mother of [illegible] was committed nearly three months ago. Alabama is the state of the notorious Scottsboro case. It was Alabama justice which, after [illegible]

to done about it. If can't do anything about it. You all do all you can."

The Daily Worker and the Worker resolved to do something about it. They called a conference for Saturday, Nov. 25, at the Hotel Theresa, in Harlem, at which to devise ways and means of mobilizing the nation for action in Mrs. Taylor's case.

PROMINENT FIGURES ATTENDED

City Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., was joined by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, nationally known writer on women's problems and member of the National Committee of the Communist Political Association, and by Carl Ross, executive secretary of the American Youth for Democracy, in condemning Alabama authorities for their indifference to Mrs. Taylor's pleas for justice.

To Probe Attack on Ala. Woman

NEW YORK. (ANP)—Gov. Chauncey Sparks of Alabama last week promised the Committee for Equal Justice for Recy Taylor that a thorough and immediate investigation will be made into the attack on Mrs. Taylor by six white hoodlums on the night of September 3 in Abbeville, Ala.

Eugene Gordon, correspondent of the Daily Worker, returned from Alabama where he asked for a half hour with Governor Speaks, conferred with Attorney General William N. McQueen and conducted a full investigation into the rape of Mrs. Taylor, 22-year-old mother.

Sparks told him:

"This matter never reached me officially. I heard of it only by rumors. But I am determined to get an official report on it and that is why I have ordered my best investigators to get to work on it."

A Committee for Equal Justice for Recy Taylor, headed by Assemblyman Hulan Jack of New York, has been organized with headquarters at 112 E. 19th St., New York City.

National Move Centers Around Alabama Case

Grand Jury Frees Six Soldiers In Brutal Assault

NEW YORK, — (ANP). — The case of Mrs. Recy Taylor, 22-year-old mother and wife of a U. S. soldier, who was kidnaped and raped on September 3, by six white hoodlums in Abbeville, Alabama, has already taken on nationwide significance after being suppressed for several months following the grand jury exoneration of her attackers.

In New York last Saturday a conference of Negro and white organizations met at the Theresa Hotel to consider ways and means to achieve equal and exact justice for Mrs. Taylor and all Negroes in the South. The result suggests that this case will become as famous as the Scottsboro case.

ADOPT RESOLUTIONS

The conference that included representatives from civic and religious bodies as well as the CIO, AFL and the American Labor party adopted resolutions and named a delegation to go to Alabama and protest the case to the governor and authorities and got first-hand information on the case in Abbeville.

Resolutions of protest were sent to the governor of Alabama, the Attorney General Biddle, the war department, and the two Alabama senators. Telegrams were also sent to the CIO and AFL annual meeting in session.

Delegates to the conference emphasized that in the light of the election results, the splitting of the south over progressive issues, the part the Negro is playing in the war, and the impending significance of the color question in the Pacific war, the time is now ripe to spearhead a movement to demand full and democratic rights for the American Negro at home.

WORK IN CONCERT

To achieve these ends the committees are now inviting to function in concert all liberal Negro and white organizations both north and south.

On Sunday, September 3, in Abbeville, between 11 and 12 p. m. Mrs. Taylor was on her way home from church with 61-year-old, Mrs. Fanny Daniels and her 18-year-old son, West, when they were stopped near a deserted lot by six white hoodlums who emerged from a car brandishing pistols and knives and claiming that Mrs. Taylor was wanted by the sheriff. When she attempted to resist she was forced into the car bodily and at the point of a gun. They threatened that they would "shoot her d--n head off" if she continued to resist.

Driven to a lonely spot about one and one-half miles from the town, Mrs. Taylor was stripped of her clothing and raped by each of the six assailants while she pleaded that they not kill her for her husband's and baby's sake. Early next morning, she was dumped blindfolded and naked on a street corner.

GANG IS FREED

After Mrs. Taylor had been kidnaped, Mrs. Daniels and her son hurried to the home of a white man, Will Cook. Hearing her story he asked her to stay with his sick wife while he and another white man, Bonnie Corbitt, and Mrs. Taylor's father sought High Sheriff Gamble. Unable to find him, Deputy Sheriff Louis Corbitt assisted in the search for the assailants.

They found the driver of the car, Hugh Wilson, who confessed and named the other rapists as Penute Hasting, Skipper Reeves, Dillard York, Luther Lee and two or three others.

On October 5 the grand jury met after testimony of Mrs. Daniels and her son had been heard every member of the gang was exonerated and set free.

RAPIST TO GET DETECTOR TEST IN GIRL'S DEATH

George R. Brockner, 19, of 32 N. Worth av., Elgin, a discharged sailor held in the Kane county jail at Geneva in connection with two rape cases, one in Kane and one in McHenry county, has admitted raping a third woman near Fort Wayne, Ind., last May, it was disclosed yesterday.

Chief of Police Jules Stumpf of Fort Wayne said yesterday he is trying to determine whether the woman Brockner admits raping there was Anna Kuzeff, 20, whose body was found May 22. He said Brockner's confession did not include an admission of murder.

Leonarde Keeler, Chicago criminologist, said he plans to subject Brockner to a lie detector test on three Fort Wayne cases.

Brockner recently has received treatmentat the Chicago Psychopathic hospital, the Elgin State hospital, and Hines hospital.

To Hear Report Wednesday On Alabama Case

The second conference on the case of Mrs. Recy Taylor, Alabama Negro rape yietim, will be held next Wednesday night at 23 West 26th St. The conference called by the Provisional Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, will hear a report by Eugene Gordon, Daily Worker reporter.

Mrs. Taylor was abducted by a gang of white youths near Abbeville, Ala., more than three months ago, stripped of her clothing, and raped. Her pleas for justice, until a week ago, had been ignored by Alabama authorities.

Gov. Chauncy Sparks and Attorney General William N. McQueen, last week, told Eugene Gordon in Montgomery that they had begun "a thorough and complete investigation" of the attack. Gordon interviewed them on his way back from Abbeville, where he had obtained from Mrs. Taylor a detailed account of the assault. He will report to the conference.

Called to organize a permanent committee and to lay plans for a nation-wide campaign in Mrs. Taylor's behalf, the conference will adopt a program aimed at preventing similar attacks in the future and, when they occur, bringing the guilty to justice.

Wednesday's conference will be made up of delegates representing trade union, church, civic, fraternal and other organizations. More than 100 invitations have been sent out.

SPONSORS

The committee made public yesterday a partial list of sponsors, including Mrs. Pauline Dobbs, Birmingham, Ala.; the Rev. Stephen H. Fritchman, Boston, and, New York Councilman Peter V. Cacchione, Earl Conrad, Miss Thelma Dale, Councilman Benjamin J. Davis Jr., Mrs. Katherine Earnshaw, Howard Fast, Rabbi Max Felchin, Abram Flaxer, James W. Ford, Assemblyman Hulan E. Jack, Mrs. Ada B. Jackson, Canada Lee, Representative Vito Marcantonio, the Rev. William Howard Melish, Samuel Novick, Congressman-elect Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Mrs. M. L. A. Pratt, Councilman Michael Quill, and Professor Walter Rautenstrauch.

Representative George H. Bender of Ohio has pledged his support of the committee.

Miss Glenda Sullivan, temporary secretary, said yesterday that funds are coming in but that more are needed for current expenses. Checks should be made payable to Assemblyman Hulan E. Jack, treasurer.

—By Albert Deutsch—

It's Different When Negro Girl Is Raped by Whites

There's a strange and terrible tale coming up from Alabama. It tells of a young mother, wife of a U. S. soldier, who allegedly was waylaid, on her way home from church, kidnapped and raped by six members of another race while her soldier husband, home on furlough, awaited her return. If the skin color of the characters in this rustic tragedy were reversed, driven away, and dumped, naked, on a dark Abbeville street. Southern chivalry would have been outraged beyond measure. Self-styled protectors of pure womanhood would have hastened to form necktie parties without waiting for the rape charges to be proved.

It happens, however, that the woman in the story is a Negro; the alleged rapists white. So nothing happens. Southern chivalry is unstirred. A cordon sanitaire of cold indifference and stony silence is built around the rape case of Abbeville, now three months old.

Here's how the story goes:

On Sunday night, Sept. 3, Mrs. Recy Taylor, 22, of Abbeville, Ala., was on her way home from church, accompanied by Mrs. Fannie Daniels, 61, and West Daniels, 18, when a car containing six white men pulled up alongside them on a lonely road. One of the men ordered Mrs. Taylor to get into the car.

According to Mrs. Taylor's story, pistols were brandished when she refused, and she was forced into the car. Then, she charges, the car was driven to a deserted spot about a mile outside Abbeville, where she was stripped of her clothing and raped by each of the six men. Mrs. Taylor says she was blindfolded,

37m-1944

Alabama Justice

Informer
Houston, Texas

AN outrageous case of injustice is finally breaking through a web of silence and indifference. It is the raping of Mrs. Recy Taylor, wife of a Negro soldier, by a gang of white hoodlums, more than two months ago near Abbeville, Ala. Various organizations have reacted, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Federation of Constitutional Liberties, the National Negro Congress and others.

We feel that there has been too much complacency over this outrageous act and equally outrageous refusal of local authorities to do anything about it. Not a single newspaper, except Negro papers and the Daily Worker, has brought forward the facts in the case.

We know how the daily papers shout and yell when there is an alleged rape of a white woman. Only a few weeks ago three Negro boys were convicted in 80 minutes on the flimsiest evidence of raping a white woman in Florida. They were promptly executed. Now in Alabama a Negro woman is raped by white hoodlums. They are apprehended but nothing is done with them. The special counsel of the NAACP declared yesterday that every week the NAACP receives scores of appeals for protection against such brutalities.

This shows that the raping of Mrs. Taylor is no mere incident. We propose that it not be allowed to rest. A nation wide campaign should be organized. We believe it is the special duty of white organizations and the labor movement, including trade unions in the South, to take up this case with the support of organizations throughout the country.

Those guilty must be brought to justice and punished. The people must force the officials of Alabama to act. If they do not act the Federal government must intervene.

National Move Centers Around Alabama Case

Memphis World
12-8-44

Grand Jury Frees Six Soldiers In Brutal Assault

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Delegates to the conference emphasized that in the light of the election results, the splitting of the south over progressive issues, the part the Negro is playing in the war, and the impending significance of the color question in the Pacific war, the time is now ripe to spearhead a movement to demand full and democratic rights for the American Negro at home.

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On October 9 the grand jury met after testimony of Mrs. Daniels and her son had been heard every member of the gang was exonerated and set free.

Negro

7192

Victim of Rapists Cries for Justice

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.
7192

By EUGENE GORDON

"I hope and trust God something will be done about it. I can't do anything about it."

That cry of desperate futility comes from the agony of a Negro woman's heart, in the depth of Alabama, to the Daily Worker.

She is Mrs. Recy Taylor, 22-year-old wife of a Negro soldier and mother of an infant daughter. She was kidnaped, stripped of her clothing and raped by five or six white youths one Sunday night nearly three months ago. She was on her way from church.

Her attackers, early next morning, dumped her, naked and blindfolded, in Abbeville, near where they had forced her into a car the night before.

DOING, SAYING NOTHING

"They ain't doing anything about it," Mrs. Taylor weeps, referring to the sheriff and his deputies. "They ain't saying anything about it."

She adds that she trusts God that we, in New York, will say and do something to assure her justice.

Mrs. Taylor's five-page, laboriously-written letter, "from Recy Taylor, Willie G. Taylor, Joice Lee Taylor," came in answer to one sent to her by the Daily Worker. We asked her for a full account of what happened to her on that lonely road where, in company with two neighbors, she was grabbed up by hoodlums on a Sunday night.

Allowing for minor editorial changes, necessary to make the letter legible, her words, given in excerpts below, are precisely as she wrote them to this newspaper.

". . . I and Mrs. Fannie Daniels and West Daniels was coming from the church. When we got this side of the (illegible), we see this car past by and went down the road and come back by and then back up and five boys got out and halted us three times.

"Mrs. Fannie said, 'Halt for what?'

"He said, 'Don't you move. You the one that cut a white boy in Clopton.'

"I said I did not. I was down at Mrs. Fannie's all evening.

COULDN'T ESCAPE

"'We got to carry you to the sheriff. If you ain't the one, we will bring you right back here.'

"I couldn't get away.

"'If you don't get in the car, I will kill you. I will shoot your damn head off. We got to carry you back, dead or alive. Get in the car!'

"One said, 'Kill her if she don't get in.' I said, 'I ain't been to town.' They said, 'Town, hell! Get in the car!'

"I got in the car and when I see they never went to Abbeville, I said, 'Please, don't carry me way from home. I thought you all was carrying me to the sheriff. I have to ask, please don't kill me.'

"All six raped me about 15 minutes apiece. . . . One of them blindfolded me and put me off and said, 'Don't you move until we get away from here.'

"Let me tell you all they ain't doing anything about it and they ain't saying anything about it. I hope and trust God something will be done about it. I can't do anything about it. You all do all you can."

There it is, as stark as the tragedy itself.

The Daily Worker is doing something about it. We have invited about 40 persons, as individuals and as representatives of organizations, to a brief conference Saturday morning, Nov. 25, where we will devise ways and means of getting ever larger numbers of persons and organizations to do something about Mrs. Taylor's case.

We look upon what has happened to her not as an isolated incident but as part of a southern pattern. The time has come for progressive elements to destroy that pattern. Many of these elements are in the South. The conference will determine how to reach and to activize them.

Though the invitation was sent to a selected few owing, first, to the preliminary nature of the intended discussion and, second, to the fact that the meeting place will accommodate a limited number, there is no objection to attendance

Parley Saturday On Taylor Rape Case

THE DAILY WORKER has invited about 40 persons to a conference Saturday morning, Nov. 25, at the Hotel Theresa, Seventh Ave. and 125 St., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ways and means will be devised for procuring justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor and of ending a widespread system by which Negro womanhood has been degraded since slavery days.

by anybody who feels he can contribute something.

The South is notorious for its theme song of love for and protection of its womanhood. Mrs. Recy Taylor, a southern woman, must become a cause celebre for all Negro womanhood.

Rapists of Negro Woman Still Free After 2 Mos.

By EUGENE GORDON

It is now more than two months since one of Alabama's daughters, 22-year-old Mrs. Recy Taylor, a Negro, was kidnaped on her way from church, stripped of her clothing, and raped by seven or eight young white men.

It has been more than two months since Wil Guy Taylor, her husband, a United States soldier, waited at home all night, tending their two-year-old baby, while a gang of hoodlums in the woods attacked the child's mother.

Nearly two months have passed since she and her father begged Abbeville, Ala., authorities to arrest and punish the men she identified as her rapists—Hugo Wilson, Penute Hasting (or Hasty), Skipper Reeves, Dillard York, Luther Lee and two or three others.

Sheriff Louis Corbitt arrested Hugo Wilson, driver of the kidnap car—and released him. The Grand Jury has questioned Mrs. Taylor and other witnesses of the kidnaping. It has questioned the sheriff who found the car and who arrested Wilson. It has questioned both the county prosecutor and Sheriff Corbitt's superior, High Sheriff George Gamble. And it has done—nothing more!

During that time, in a Gainesville, Fla., court, a few hundred miles distant, three other youths had been given an 80-minute "trial" and condemned to death for allegedly attacking another young woman, also wife of a soldier of the United States Army.

In the more than two months since seven or eight youths raped Mrs. Recy Taylor and, next morning, dumped her naked and blindfolded at Charlie Norton's corner in Abbleville, Ala., the Gainesville, Fla., protectors of Southern womanhood have burned the Florida's woman's alleged attackers to death in the electric chair.

Persons who intend not to forget the official South's vociferous declarations on behalf of its womanhood recall that Florida refused to consider appeals for a real trial. Florida called those appeals "frivolous."

Does Alabama consider Mrs. Taylor's appeal for justice "frivolous"? Is that why the state refuses to prosecute her attackers?

Persons who followed the Florida case—in which the youths swore they were innocent and swore they were beaten into confessing and in which the woman has never yet been named—could not help feeling that appeals for a genuine trial were "frivolous" only because the youths were Negroes.

Are Mrs. Taylor's appeals for simple justice treated frivolously by Alabama authorities because she is a Negro and because her attackers are white?

Do the South's "protectors" of womanhood "protect" only "white" womanhood? Are all other appeals for protection to be dismissed as 'frivolous"?

It is time for responsible persons, organizations and institutions in the South to answer these questions!

NOT NEWS?

The Daily Worker recently wired McCune, editor of the "liberal" Birmingham Age Herald for information on the present status of the Taylor rape case and the dates on which stories of the case had appeared in that journal. Mr. McCune wired back that he was unable to find any reference to it in the Age Herald.

The Daily Worker doubts that anybody would have any trouble finding reference to the Gainsville, Fla., case, reported by Associated Press throughout the country as a part of the South's effort to protect its womanhood from "Negro rapists," in any southern newspaper. The Daily Worker is the only daily New York paper that has mentioned it.

Catch and Punish the Criminals!

LOVERS of justice and haters of fascist attitudes toward women have forced from the governor and the attorney general of Alabama the assurance of an investigation in the case of Mrs. Recy Taylor. Mrs. Taylor, young Negro wife and mother, has been pleading vainly for justice since that night, more than three months ago, when she was abducted, stripped of her clothing and raped by a gang of white ruffians near Abbeville, Ala.

Ignoring the reactionary South's well-known sentiment that the persecution of Negroes is its own affair, progressive persons and organizations everywhere are making the Taylor case their affair. They are taking the correct position that, left to the state of Alabama, nothing would be done to change the truth of Mrs. Taylor's cry that "nobody is saying anything about it and nobody is doing anything about it."

Progressives in New York, through the initiative of the Daily Worker, organized the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, with Assemblyman Hulan Jack as treasurer and its address as 112 E. 19 St. They prodded Gov. Chauncy Sparks and Attorney General William McQueen with resolutions, letters and telegrams into promising "a complete and thorough investigation."

The committee, now arranging a conference to hear a first-hand report from its investigator, just returned from Alabama, sees in the fight for justice for Mrs. Taylor a means of undermining the rotting foundation which supports the degradation of all Negro women. There is every reason why this fight should develop into a movement to lift the economic and social status of American women in general. For we must remember that white women, no less than black women, are outraged by such fascist attitudes toward their sex.

Groups Demand Justice In Alabama Rape Case

The case of Mrs. Recy Taylor, 22 year old mother and wife of a US soldier, who was kidnapped and raped Sept. 3, by six white hoodlums in Abbeville, Ala., has already taken on nation-wide significance after being suppressed for several months following the grand jury exoneration of her at-

tackers. Last Saturday a conference of Negro and white organizations met at the Theresa Hotel to consider ways and means to achieve equal justice for Mrs. Taylor and all Negroes in the South.

The conference that included representatives from civic and religious bodies as well as the CIO, AFL and the American Labor Party odopted adequate resolutions and named a delegation to go to Alabama and protest the case to the governor and authorities and get first-hand information on it. While in the South the delegation has been instructed to attend the annual meeting of the Southern Youth Congress to be held at Atlanta Nov. 30 to Dec. 3.

RESOLUTIONS SENT

Resolutions of protest were sent to the governor of Alabama, U.S. Attorney General Biddle, the War Department and the two Alabama Senators. Telegrams were also sent to the CIO and AFL annual meetings now in session. The conference urged that organizations and individuals everywhere wire protests.

Delegates to the conference emphasized that in the light of the election results, the splitting of the South over progressive issues, the part the Negro is playing in the war, and the impending significance of the color question in the Pacific war, the time is now ripe to spearhead a movement to demand full and democratic rights for the American Negro at home.

The resolution to Attorney Biddle reviewed the facts of how Mrs. Taylor had been bodily forced into a car at midnight by a gang of white men bearing a gun and knives, taken to a lonely spot and raped by each.

The communication to the Attorney General read in part:

"Such incidents, as you know, can be of no help to national unity, and we are sure your interest in unity parallels our own. The Negro people, victims in a series of outrages recently, can hardly be expected to maintain morale if both Federal and State governments remain indifferent to such situations.

COMPARES SCOTTSBORO

"We think that in the light of the need for harmony among peoples during such a critical time, and in the interest of staving off further attacks on Negroes anywhere, your department would do well to look into the case."

The resolution to Governor Sparks said: "Alabama justice and the Constitution of the United States have been flouted in Abbeville," and called upon him "to take cognizance of this case and to see that punishment according to the laws of the State of Alabama" is meted out to the rapists.

New York City Councilman Benjamin J. Davis Jr, who for three years worked on the Scottsboro case, in a message to the conference said: "This crime against Mrs. Taylor is as bad as any Nazi brutality seen in the war. This is another Scottsboro case, only in a different way. We beat them on the first Scottsboro case and we must beat them in this case, but more decisive is mobilizing the forces of labor, the people and the decent white Southern sentiment."

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Rape Case Against GI In England

The Whip—Miami, Fla.
10-14-44

NEW YORK — Opportunity to examine the court-martial record and file a brief on behalf of Joseph Ballot, young Negro soldier, sentenced for life last February for the alleged molestation of a white girl in Portsmouth, England, was requested in a wire to Gen. Eisenhowver, by the NAACP, September 20.

The unfortunate happening was revealed in a letter from a young Britisher whose husband prepared the appeal and was only partially successful in obtaining reduction of the original sentence of twenty years. Requesting the aid of the NACAP, the writer said:

10-14-44

"The arrest was made because a girl said she had been molested. There was no evidence to prove this, for at the trial neither the girl nor the policeman recognized the young man. Yet he was sentenced for natural life, no doubt on account of his color.

"The people of Portsmouth, were horrified at the sentence, and suggested something be done. My husband prepared an appeal; I obtained 276 signatures, and could have gotten many more had I the time. The German bombers, at that time were paying us some attention, and we were afraid the list might get destroyed, for some men wanted to take it into the Dockyard, and others to a factory.

"People in all walks of life talked about the injustice of the sentence.

"My husband, sent the appeal with an accompanying letter to the J. A. of E. T. O. who sent it on to the C. G. of S. B. S. From this address, we got no news.

YOUNG MOTHER ACCUSES CIO AID AT RAPE TRIAL

Chicago Daily Tribune
Ill.

Swears Steward Held Knife at Her Throat.

11-17-44

A young mother of a daughter, 1 year old, pointed out Howard L. McGarvey, 36, an ex-convict and chief steward of the CIO automobile workers' union at the Studebaker plant, in Criminal court yesterday as the rapist who twice attacked her and mistreated her at the point of a hunting knife in his room at 6129 S. Rockwell st.

The details of the rape were told by Mrs. Helen Anton, 18, of 532 W. 45th pl. to a jury of eight women and four men in the court of Judge Peter H. Schwaba, where McGarvey is on trial on a cahrge of rape.

Tells of Threat with Knife.

Mrs. Anton testified under questioning of Assistant State's Atty. Theodore Kuciewicz that McGarvey accosted her last Sept. 17 as she waited for a street car at 63d and Rockwell sts. She was on her way home to Blue Island, where she was then living with her husband and mother, after visiting a south side couple.

She testified that McGarvey put a knife to her neck and told her to come along with him. "I told him I didn't want to," she said, "but he continued to point the knife at my neck." Asked what kind of knife McGarvey held, Mrs. Anton said it was a small hunting knife.

After identifying McGarvey as the man who menaced her, the young mother then told how McGarvey forced her to walk into a nearby alley where he blindfolded her and then made her walk up some steps.

"Where was the knife?" Prosecutor Kuciewicz asked.

"It was at my throat," the witness answered.

Swears He Threatened Death.

Mrs. Anton testified that when they got into McGarvey's room, he took off her clothes and forced her onto the bed. She said he placed the knife on the dresser and asked her for a kiss. When she refused, she said he told her, "If you don't give me what I want I will kill you."

Mrs. Anton said McGarvey raped her twice and that when she tried to resist he again threatened her with the knife. She said he mistreated her an dthat finally when he went to the bathroom, she slammed the door on him and ran, screaming and nude, from the house.

"I ran out the back door screaming and he came out running after me and tried to catch me," she testified.

Tells of Policemen's Arrival.

Mrs. Anton said she ran to the home of a neighbor, Michael R. Miller, 6117 S. Rockwell st., who let her in and called the police. When police came, she said, she took them to McGarvey's home where he was found in bed. Part of her clothing was found in the room and part outside where McGarvey had thrown it, she said.

11-17-44

Police said McGarvey denied the mother's charge and said he had never seen her before. Earlier his attorney said the defense would prove that Mrs. Anton had gone voluntarily to the CIO union official's home and that her story of mistreatment was false.

Police records showed that McGarvey was sentenced in Tazewell county in 1930 to serve a one to 20 year term in Stateville prison for auto larceny. He was released on parole after serving one year, later was sent back to prison as a parole violator, and served four and a half years on the charge.

McGarvey, whose draft status is 4-F, was married in 1927 in Texas and lived for one year with his wife, who divorced him on charges of cruelty.

Mrs. Recy Taylor

New Masses 12-26-44

A Provisional Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor has been formed and will soon be established on a permanent basis. This is indeed a welcome development in one of the most scandalous cases of injustice resulting from blind anti-Negro prejudice in our deep South. It was three and a half months ago that Mrs. Taylor was abducted, stripped and raped by armed white hoodlums as she was on her way home from church in Abbeville, Alabama. The criminals were identified, one even confessed, but in the hands of white-superiority fanatics justice was not done.

12-26-44

The Chicago *Defender* and the *Daily Worker* deserve special commendation for having publicized the case. The work of Eugene Gordon, reporter for the latter newspaper, in ascertaining the facts, in personally obtaining Mrs. Taylor's story, and in securing from Governor Sparks of Alabama a promise to investigate, has been more than praiseworthy. We are also glad to note that *PM* has picked up the case.

N.Y., N.Y.

The fight to obtain justice for Mrs. Taylor must have the widest support. The Provisional Committee has made a good start. It numbers among its members such outstanding leaders as Congressman George H. Bender, Republican of Ohio, Councilmen Cacchione and Davis of New York City, Rev. William Howard Melish, Prof. Walter Rautenstrauch of Columbia, and Samuel Novick, president of the Electronic Corporation of America. These must now be joined by many others. The Committee will thereby be able better to exercise vigilance over the actions of Alabama authorities and rally public support toward such points as the development of the case demands.

Governor Promises Action in Rape Case

Peoples Voice N.Y., N.Y.
12-16-44

Governor Chauncy Sparks of Alabama last Saturday gave his word that he will immediately investigate the failure of the local authorities of Abbeville, Ala., who exonerated without trial six white hoodlums who kidnapped and raped the young mother, Mrs. Recy Taylor on September 30. The Governor told Eugene Gordon, Negro reporter on the Daily Worker, who had been dispatched to the South to make a personal investigation of the case after he had initiated a nationwide interest in it by his persistent stories and editorials, "this matter never reached me officially. I heard of it only by rumors, but I am determined to get an official report on it and that is why I have ordered my best investigators to get to work on it."

COMMITTEE FORMED

This news came just two weeks after the Committee for Equal Justice was established at the Theresa Hotel in New York by representatives of about 30 organizations with membership numbering millions, with the purpose not only for pressing for justice for Mrs. Taylor, but to initiate jointly with Southern organizations a movement to change the whole pattern of second class citizenship for Negroes in the South.

The Executive Committee of the newly formed organizations reports this week that more sponsors of Negro and white organizations are pouring in from both North and South; that contributions have been forthcoming in response to appeals; that mass meetings are being held and announced to support the movement. In one case a white actor not only gave $50 in cash, but offered to form an organization in his profession in behalf of the cause.

CONFERENCE CALLED

12-16-44

Another conference of even larger proportion has been called for Wednesday, December 20. A few of the prominent personalities that have lent their names to the Committee for Equal Justice are Congressman Adam C. Powell, jr.; Assemblyman Hulan Jack; Novelist Howard Fast; Rabbi Max Feitchen; Steve Freichman of Boston; Actor Canada Lee; and President Sam Novick of Electronic Corp. of America.

Governor Sparks gave ready audience to reporter Eugene Gordon on his arrival in Montgomery, Ala. He declared that the Negro "was a natural born farmer" and expressed concern over what the unsuitable city slums were doing to him. He pointed out that a few years ago there were 135,00 tenant farmers in Alabama, and 75,000 of these were Negroes. Today, he said, there were 135,000 tenant farmers, but that 79,000 are white, while only 56,000 are Negroes.

After the New York conference, a resolution had been sent to Gov. Sparks, warning him that nationwide publicity would be given to this case and advised him to intercede in behalf of the State's honor. The Governor anxiously asked that no more publicity be given to the case. However, the Committee for Equal Justice is urging every interested person to petition and write the Governor of Alabama and his Attorney General, urging them to follow through on their promises.

Committee Takes Up Fight For Alabama Rape Victim

The Worker — New York, N.Y.
12-31-44

in Harlem.

FUNDS NEEDED

The most important point, in view of the extent of the committee's task, is immediately to raise $1,000.

Assemblyman Hulan Jack was elected treasurer of the committee. All contributions should be sent to him.

The remaining five points of the program are:

- **To obtain from Abbeville, Alabame, a complete factual report by investigators.**
- **To lay that report before the Sixth All-Southern Negro Youth Congress, in conference in Atlanta and to urge this body to choose a delegation to visit Gov. Chauncy N. Sparks.**
- **To select a deleration from 2 parts of the United States, this delegation to appeal personally to Gov. Sparks for justice for Mrs. Taylor.**
- **To procure a factual brochure.**
- **To set up a permanent office and staff.**

HOODLUMS KNOWN

The hoodlums who raped Mrs. Taylor are known. But, after three months, Alabama justice is still blind to Mrs. Taylor's pleas. This crime could be committed and legally condoned because of white supremacy traditions still prevailing in the minds of certain sections of Alabama and the South.

All progressive-minded people both North and South must back this fight to break down these traditions and accord equal justice to all people in our country.

The purpose of Mr. Gordon's trip is to procure the full facts in the case and to report them in order that a nationwide campaign can be developed.

Alabama Authorities Ignore White Gang's Rape of Negro Mother

Mrs. Recy Taylor, 22-year-old Negro woman, wife of a soldier and mother of a two-year-old daughter, was kidnaped, stripped of her clothing and raped near Abbeville, Ala., on the night of Sept. 3. Alabama justice to date has been blind, deaf and mute. Mrs. Taylor was on her way from church, in company with two friends, Mrs. Fanny Daniels, 61, and West Daniels, 18. It was between 11 and 12 p.m. when an auto load of white youths stopped beside the three somebody shouted, "Halt!"

The gang surrounded the two women and the boy and, brandishing knives and guns, grabbed Mrs. Taylor. One of them said:

"This girl is wanted by Sheriff Gamble for cutting a white boy in Clopton this evening. Sheriff Gamble doesn't know her, but we do, by the clothes she's wearing, and he has us out looking for her. You are the one, and we must take you, dead or alive."

She was shoved into the car and driven in the direction of Abbeville. It turned off the road, however, at Three Points, heading toward the old Columbia Highway.

HUNT ATTACKERS

Mrs. Daniels and West went to the home of a white man named Cook. Hearing their story, he asked her to stay with his sick wife. He and a man named Bennie Corbitt and Mrs. Taylor's father sought High Sheriff George Gamble and not finding him, got Deputy Sheriff Louis Corbitt. They hunted for the hoodlums.

Mrs. Taylor, the next day, staggered home, naked, dazed and bleeding. She said the gang had driven her out of the Old Columbia highway, while she pleaded with them, for her baby's and her husband's sake, not to kill her. Stripping her, they forced her, at the point of a gun, to submit to one after the other of the six or seven members of the gang.

Early in the morning she was blindfolded and driven back to Abbeville. They dumped her out at Charlie Norton's Corner, ordering her not to remove the blindfold until they were gone. Deputy Sheriff Corbitt was with her father when she staggered in.

Corbitt, with her detailed description of the car, found it and its driver, Hugo Wilson. He arrested Wilson who named Penute Hasting (or Hasty), Skipper Reeves, Dillard York, Luther Lee and two or three others, as accomplices. Mrs. Taylor confirmed these identifications.

ALL EXONERATED

Deputy Sheriff Corbitt, High Sheriff Gamble, a solicitor, and Mrs. Taylor, drove to the scene of the crime. They admitted that all evidence tended to prove her charges. Yet, when the Grand Jury met on Oct. 9 and listened to her, Mrs. Daniels' and West Daniels' story, every member of the gang was exonerated.

What have Albama authorities done since then as protector of its citizens' rights? Alabama, typical of the South in general, boasts of its concern for its womanhood.

The answer is found in reply to a telegram sent John McCune, editor of the Birmingham Age-Herald, by the Daily Worker. He wired that his paper had never heard of the case.

It is clear that if the state had taken action it would have been known to the press of the whole South. Every Southern newspaper played up the "rape" of the unnamed wife of a white soldier in Florida. They had a grand time also when the alleged rapists, the youngest of whom was 16, were burned to death in Florida's electric chair.

Alabama has done nothing about Mrs. Taylor.

The Daily Worker and The Worker, are the only newspapers aside from the Negro press, which have mentioned this case.

The whole country must be aroused to action against this and other similar outrages against the Negro womanhood.

Southerners Rally Behind Mrs. Taylor

A delegation of prominent Southerners is being sent to Gov. Chauncy Sparks and Attorney General William N. McQueen, of Alabama, to urge speed in the promised investigation of the Abbeville rape case, it was announced here yesterday by the Provisional Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor, Negro wife and mother, who was abducted on Sept. 3, last by a gang of white youths near Abbeville, Ala., stripped of her clothing and raped, has pleaded in vain for official recognition of her case.

The Alabama Chapter of the Southern Conference has also sent Gov. Sparks a letter outlining facts in the Taylor case and requesting him "to use the power of your high office to see that complete justice in this case is expedited," that "the court indict and punish those guilty of the crime" and that "repetition of such acts be effectively discouraged."

The letter to the Governor, signed by Mrs. Pauline Thomas Dobbs, executive secretary, Alabama Chapter, makes the following specific charge:

"The Nazi-like abduction and raping of Mrs. Taylor . . . constitutes a serious damage to our war effort. An act like this is bound to lower the morale of the Negro people and to precipitate distrust and hatred among our people. If allowed to go unnoticed this outrageous crime will loosen harsh criticisms upon the state of Alabama and will threaten the entire cultural and economic development of our state."

The Daily Worker, in the meantime, in cooperation with New York Negro newspapers, is sponsoring a mass meeting on the Abbeville rape case for next Friday night at the Abyssinian Baptist Church.

Indict Marine in 2d Capital Rape Slaying

Washington, D. C., Dec. 11 (AP).—A marine private awaiting trial for the "snood slaying" of a government clerk was accused today of a second rape killing — that of a woman, 63.

The District of Columbia grand jury returned an indictment charging the marine, Earl McFarland, 24, with the murder of Mrs. Margaret Fitzwater, a widow, whose nude body was found Sept. 24 floating in a lagoon near the Pentagon building.

McFarland previously had been indicted for the Potomac park slaying Oct. 5 of Miss Dorothy M. Berrum, 18, a war department clerk from Chippewa Falls, Wis. His trial in that case has been set for Jan. 8.

Restaurant Worker Absolved.

McFarland's indictment in the slaying of Mrs. Fitzwater absolved Gardner Holmes, 66, a restaurant worker who was arrested in his houseboat soon after the discovery of Mrs. Fitzwater's body. Mrs. Fitzwater was a housekeeper.

John W. Fihelly, assisant United States attorney, said McFarland, a veteran of South Pacific action, had been identified by a waitress as the elderly woman's companion the night of the slaying. Fihelly said McFarland denied knowledge of either crime.

McFarland was arrested in the Berrum case after a taxi driver identified him as the girl's companion on a ride to a public golf course where the garroted body was found. Miss Berrum's snood had been used to strangle her.

Fihelly said the similarity of the crimes led police to suspect McFarland in the earlier slaying after his arrest in the Berrum case.

McFarland is a native of Maryville, Tenn. His wife and two children live in New Market, Tenn.

Woman's Throat Slashed.

Mrs. Fitzwater's throat had been slashed. Both bodies bore evidence of severe beating and both victims had been raped.

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Criminal Record Traced

Coroner's Jury Holds Marine In Government Girl Slaying

Post—Washington, D. C.
10-10-44

Pfc. Earl McFarland, 21, a Marine, whose criminal record with the FBI dates back to 1934, when he was sent to reform school in Nashville, under the name of E. J. Dills, yesterday was held "responsible" by a six-man coroner's jury for the death of Dorothy Berrum, 17, War Department employe.

The boyish-looking veteran of the South Pacific appeared before U. S. Commissioner Needham Turnage shortly before the inquest and entered a plea of not guilty to a first degree murder charge. He is scheduled to go before the District grand jury today.

Fourteen witnesses before District Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald yesterday outlined events apparently related to the brutal rape and strangulation of Miss Berrum, whose beaten body was discovered Friday morning on the golf course in E. Potomac Park.

Ray S. Berrum, 52, of Chippewa Falls, Wis., a conductor on the Soo Railroad, attended the inquest and heard one witness, Sergt. Ray Jenkins of the Park Police, describe the scene as he found it after two park employes reported finding the girl's body.

"Her body was laid out in the grass much as an undertaker would lay out a body," Jenkins said, explaining her flaming red coat was neatly buttoned down the front and her arms resting at her sides.

Miss Berrum, whose desire to help the war effort brought her to Washington from Chippewa Falls last June, was strangled with her bright-colored snood.

Chief of Detectives, Inspector Robert J. Barrett, testified that he talked with McFarland, as he is listed on Marine records at about 9 a. m. Saturday. At that time Barrett said, McFarland claimed he lost his Marine garrison belt last March and had been without one until he bought a new belt Friday. A black leather belt, described by police as the "type worn by Marines," was found on the roadway about 50 feet from the girl's body. The belt clip was discovered a few feet away.

Knife a Clew in Murder

Another murder clew, a switchblade knife bearing the initials "J. H.," was traced to McFarland through a fellow marine at the 23d st. and Constitution barracks, Barrett said. The accused first claimed he had the knife in the barracks, but could not produce it. A knife identified by its owner as the one he had loaned McFarland two months ago was turned over to police by Harold W. Thomas, taxi driver, of 237 Massachusetts ave. se. Thomas testified he took a marine and a girl answering Miss Berrum's description from the corner of 10th and D sts. nd., on Thursday night to a spot about half a mile from Hains Point, near where the body was found.

Barrett testified McFarland, whose wife lives in New Bern, N. C., said he had worn no belt over his blouse when he left Marine barracks about 7 p. m. Thursday with two other Marines. A photo allegedly made at a shop on 9th st. indicated the accused had worn a belt similar to that found near the crime scene, Barrett said, and testified that McFarland had explained that by saying that if he had worn his belt, he "didn't know where it came from" because he had lost it in the spring.

Had Knife in Barracks

10-10-44

McFarland also said he had left the knife at the barracks when he went out Thursday night, Barrett testified. One of his companions on that night, Pvt. Warren Craven, said McFarland had the knife with him in the barracks.

Craven said he left McFarland and the other marine, Corpl. James Westbury, on 9th st.

Westbury said all three had drinks from a whisky bottle. He testified he and McFarland went to 10th and D sts., where McFarland approached a short girl and started a conversation.

He left shortly after, telling McFarland to meet him at O'Donnell's Restaurant in half an hour. McFarland did not appear there, he said.

McFarland previously told police he talked to the girl only about 10 minutes, then left her, Barrett said.

Possible Defense Strategy

P. Bateman Ennis, attorney for McFarland, questioned several witnesses closely regarding the amount of drinks the three Marines had consumed before they parted, indicating he may plan to use drunkenness as part of McFarland's defense.

10-10-44

Several witnesses who noticed the young girl and the Marine at 10th and D sts. commented on the unusual smallness of the girl.

None could positively identify McFarland as the Marine with whom she got into a taxi.

Police reported McFarland's FBI record began when he was 11 years old and drew a two-year sentence at the State Agriculture and Training School for Boys in Nashville on charges of house burglary and larceny.

Escaped Institution

He escaped from that institution, was recommitted, then escaped from a reform school at Knoxville in 1936. There is no record of his having been committed to the Knoxville schoolfi however.

At 14, he reportedly enlisted in the Twenty-second Infantry at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., and deserted a month later.

The youth was arrested in Knoxville on charges of larceny of an auto, house burglary and larceny. He was sent back to the Nashville reform school on a four-year sentence in May, 1937, and escaped 10 months later.

10-10-44

When he was apprehended in April, 1938, he was sent to the state penitentiary at Nashville.

He was married under the name of McFarland, according to his wife, who said Sunday by long distance telephone that she had learned of his arrest here from newspapers but was too ill to come to Washington. She gave birth to a stillborn child about two weeks ago, she said, and is partly paralyzed.

Tribune—Chicago, Ill.

ORDER MARINE HELD TO JURY IN RAPE SLAYING

10-10-44

Washington, D. C., Oct. 9 (AP).—A coroner's jury today recommended that Pvt. Earl McFarland be held for grand jury action in the rape slaying of 17 year old Dorothy Berrum of Chippewa Falls, Wis., whose body was found on a golf course three days ago. McFarland, a veteran of marine corps action in the South Pacific, earlier stood mute at his arraignment on a charge of first degree murder in the girl's death. He is being held without bail.

Plan Wisconsin Funeral.

Chippewa Falls, Wis., Oct. 9 [Special].—The body of Miss Dorothy Berrum will arrive here Wednesday and funeral services will be held Thursday morning in the Notre Dame church, R. S. Berrum, her father, announced.

News—Birmingham, Ala.

Don't 'Date' Man You Do Not Know Well, Girls Advised

10-9-44

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Maj. Edward J. Kelly, District of Columbia police chief, offers this advice to girls: Don't date a man unless you know him well.

Kelly's plea, addressed particularly to the thousands of girls working for the government in Washington, followed the criminal assault slaying of Dorothy Berrum, 17, War Department clerk whose body was found on a golf course three days ago.

Friends of the victim, whose home was in Chippewa Falls, Wis., said Miss Berrum met a service man on the street, conversed with him, accompanied him in a taxicab. Marine Pfc. Earl McFarland has been charged with the slaying. He has denied knowledge of the crime.

News—Birmingham, Ala.

HELD IN SLAYING. Earl McFarland (above), 21, Marine veteran of Guadalcanal, is held in police headquarters in Washington after Maj. Edward J. Kelly, superintendent of police, announced the filing of a formal charge against him in the slaying of Dorothy Burrum, girl government worker. (Associated Press wirephoto.)

Marine Held for Murder in Rape Slaying

Tribune—Chicago, Ill.
10-8-44

(Picture on page 22.)

Washington, D. C., Oct. 7 [Special].—A lipstick stained cigaret, a push button jackknife, and a service man's belt blazed a trail of circumstantial evidence that led to the arrest today of a marine veteran of Guadalcanal for the rape murder of tiny Dorothy Berrum, 17, war department clerk from Chippewa Falls, Wis.

The marine is Earl McFarland, 21, private first class, whose wife and two children live at New Market, Tenn. He enlisted in December, 1941, went overseas the following June, and returned to this country in September, 1943, after active duty in the South Pacific and Australia. He has been stationed here as a barracks guard.

10-8-44

Maj. Edward J. Kelly, superintendent of the metropolitan police, said that a murder charge has been placed against McFarland.

Girl's Father Arrives.

R. S. Berrum, a railroad engineer and father of the slain girl, arrived here today to take the body back to the Chippewa Falls home she left last July to take a government job after finishing high school.

Two girls who came here with Miss Berrum from Chippewa Falls and roomed with her until she moved recently to a government dormitory said today they have had enough of Washington and are going home. The girls, Kathleen Cosgrove and Betty Germain, said their parents, on reading of the slaying, had telephoned them to come home.

10-8-44

Police Inspector Robert J. Barrett said McFarland denied that he killed Miss Berrum, altho he admitted he met the girl Thursday night on a downtown street corner and "talked to her a few minutes." Her body was found early Friday on the East Potomac golf course. She had been beaten and raped and then strangled with her own snood.

Tells of Meeting.

Marine Pvt. Warren Craven told police he was with McFarland Thursday night when the latter encountered Miss Berrum. He said McFarland, who had been drinking, spoke to the girl and took her arm.

Cab Driver Harold W. Thomas said a couple answering the description of McFarland and Miss Berrum entered his cab about 9:20 p. m. and that altho their announced destination was a popular eating place across the Potomac, the marine whispered to him to let them out at the golf course.

10-8-44

An argument took place between the couple as to where they were to get out, Thomas said, but the marine won and they quit the cab

Marine Indicted Here for Murder

Post—Washington, D. C.
10-17-44

Youngs Man Faces Death Penalty In Government Girl Murder

10-17-44

Pvt. Earl McFarland, 21, Marine veteran of Guadalcanal, was indicted yesterday by a District grand jury on charges of murder in the slaying of Dorothy Berrum, 17, War Department clerk from Chippewa Falls, Wis. Marine Pfc. Earl McFarland's possession of a cigaret, stained with lip stick Barrett said. The cigaret was Craven. In Miss Berrum's body was the stub of a cigaret with the same brand as that which the cab driver said he gave his passengers. Also found at the death scene was a service man's belt shown by a dance photograph taken in downtown Washington earlier in the evening to be similar to one worn by McFarland that night for the golf course, first "bumming a cigaret each. Finds Knife in Cab. Thomas gave police a push-button jackknife he said he found in the back seat of the cab after the couple left it. Barrett said the knife has been identified as one left to McFarland several weeks ago by a friend, and seen Thursday night

...nishment of death.

The indictment charged the 21-year-old Guadalcanal veteran, who has a criminal record under a different name, with premeditated murder, murder in commission of rape, and rape. The first two charges carry a mandatory death sentence, the latter a death penalty on the jury's recommendation.

The indictment said McFarland choked the young War Department typist to death with her snood, described in the statement as a "turban." Miss Berrum's body was found under a weepink willow tree 11 days ago in East Potomac Park.

Evidence, including a black Marine belt found in the road near the body, a knife dropped in a taxicab, a snapshot taken in a 9th st. gallery the night of the crime and testimony by witnesses who say they saw a marine "pick up" the 4-foot-5-inch girl near 10th and D sts. nw. shortly before her death, led to the arrest of McFarland two days after the slaying. 10-17-44

Assistant United States Attorney John W. Fihelly, who presented the case to the grand jury, said McFarland, also known as E. J. Dill, will be arraigned Friday in District Court. United States Attorney Edward M. Curran said the case will be ready for trial in a few weeks. However, Defense Attorney P. Bateman Ennis, who represents Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze in the sedition trial, said his preparation of the case is dependent on the sedition trial.

MARINE INDICTED IN RAPE SLAYING OF CAPITAL GIRL

Washington, D. C., Oct. 16 (AP).—Marine Pvt. Earl McFarland was indicted today on two counts of first degree murder and one of criminal assault in the rape slaying of Dorothy Berrum, 18, on a golf course two weeks ago.

The 21 year old veteran of action in the Southwest Pacific faces a mandatory death penalty if convicted of either murder count. A similar penalty could be recommended by the jury on the third count.

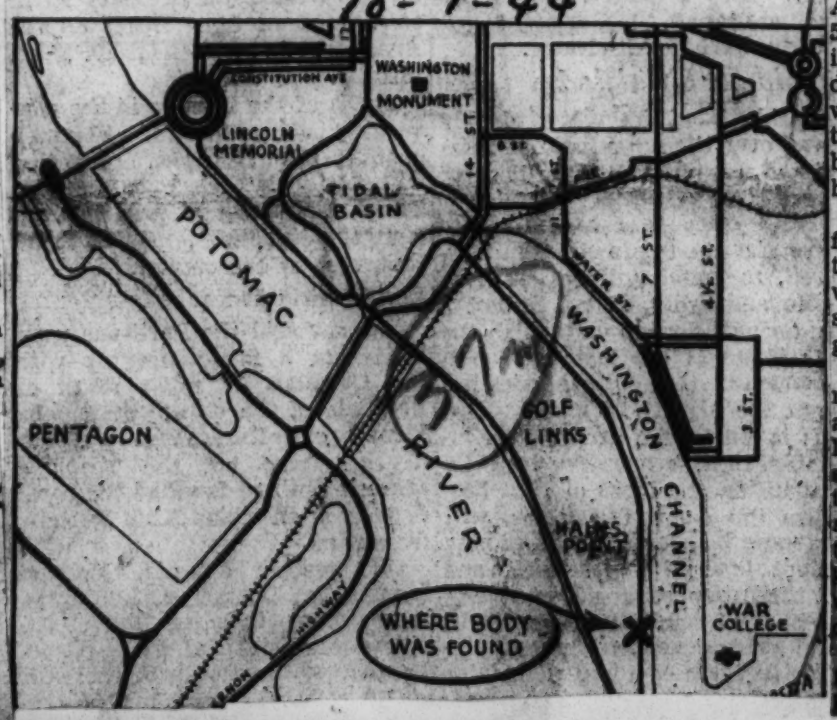
McFarland was arrested Oct. 6, a day after the body of Miss Berrum, a government clerk from Chippewa Falls, Wis., was found garroted.

Victim, 17, Raped, Then Strangled

Sex Maniac Blamed

Golf Course Slaying Victim

Dorothy Berrum, 17-year-old Chippewa Falls, Wis., girl who was found slain yesterday on the Potomac Park Golf Course at Hains Point. Map below shows location of crime



In Hains Point Brutal Slaying of Government Clerk

A sex-crazed unidentified man, believed to be a marine, dismissed a taxi on Hains Point between midnight Thursday and 2 a. m. yesterday, after he had persuaded his young Government girl companion to leave the cab, was sought last night for one of the most brutal murders in Washington history. She had been raped and strangled according to Coroner Dr. A. Magruder MacDonald.

The dead girl, whose friends called her a "novice" in affairs of the heart, was Dorothy Berrum, 17, of Maine Hall, Arlington Farms. She was 5-feet 4-inches tall and weighed but 85 pounds. Her home was at Chipawa Falls, Wis.

The taxicab driver, believed to have driven the couple to isolated Hains Point, was being questioned last night by police in an effort to get a description of the girl's escort. 10-7-44

Slow Progress

Police admitted they were making slow headway in the brutal slaying, the third in Washington's parks in the last two months.

The body of the immateurely developed girl was found about 8:15 a. m. by two Negro employes of the National Capital Parks.

Park police said the men, James W. Green, 49, of 2034 S. Glebe rd., Arlington, Va., and William Ward, 53, of 1007 V st. nw., were riding in a trash truck along the road bordering the Washington Channel, when they suddenly noticed through the mist, a black leather belt in the road. Next they saw the body and called Park police.

Police found the girl in the wet-foot-deep grass almost half-way between the road and a huge weeping willow tree, which bordered on the sixth hole of the old East Potomac golf course. 10-7-44

The girl was clad in a flaming red coat with white buttons, a red and blue striped dress with a white lace collar, tan stockings and brown suede pumps. A white snood, trimmed with blue, green, yellow and lavender threads, was tied tightly around her neck and knotted in under her left ear. She wore wrist watch and a gold signet class ring.

An autopsy was performed by MacDonald, who later said the girl had died of strangulation and that she had been criminally assaulted. Her face was bruised and scratched and her right eye was black. He placed the time of her death at about midnight. 10-7-44

Identified Through Ring

The girl was at first tentatively identified by her ring, after Inspector Robert J. Barrett, who, with Maj. Edward J. Kelly, is heading the investigation, called authorities of the MacDonnell Memorial High School in Chippewa Falls. They told police a girl by the name of Dorothy Berrum was graduated there June 1 and had left shortly after to get a Government job in Washington. Barrett said the ring was engraved with the initials D. B.

The body was identified by Viola Compton, 1813 Massachusetts ave. se., a supervising officer at the Pentagon, and by Eleanor Cartwright, another resident of Maine Hall. 10-7-44

Police later talked to Kathleen Cosgrove and Betty Ann Germain, both of whom had come to Washington from Chippewa Falls with Dorothy. They told police the girl had never "dated" until she came to Washington but that she had gone to several dances here at nearby Army camps and also had attended numerous USO dances.

The Cartwright girl and several other residents of Maine Hall confirmed their stories, adding that Dorothy had been very quiet and that they knew little about her or her social life.

Met at USO Dance

A few of her friends told police the girl had said yesterday she was going out in the evening with a young man she had met at a USO dance. No one had reported her missing, police said, although she failed to show up at her dormitory Thursday night or at her office yesterday morning.

Dorothy's parents live in Chippewa Falls, police learned. Her father is a conductor and brakeman for the Soo railroad line. She has a brother, Homer, 14.

Less than two weeks ago, the raped and slashed body of Mrs. Margaret Fitzwater, 63, housekeeper of 312 H st. nw., was found floating in the Pentagon lagoon. Her nude body was found by Gardner "Pop" Holmes, 66, restaurant worker who lived in a houseboat in the lagoon. Her throat had been slashed. 10-7-44

Holmes was charged with murder and ordered held for the grand jury. At present he is at St. Elizabeth's Hospital undergoing sanity. He escaped from Eastern State Hospital, in Williamsburg, Va., about five years ago.

Another Murder

In the early part of August of this year, Miss Frances Erickson, attractive architect, was fatally stabbed in Rock Creek Park on a Sunday afternoon on a path near the Q Street Bridge. Before she died, she gasped to a park policeman that she had been stabbed by a young Negro who grabbed her small change purse and fled.

Despite weeks of investigation, police were unable to arrest her slayer.

The death of Miss Berrum has presented a case similar to that of the murder of Betty Strief, young Government girl, whose nude body was found in a garage in the northwest section of Washington in June, 1941. 10-7-44

Her murderer, Jarvis Theodore Roosevelt Catoe, was arrested in September, 1941, and electrocuted in January, 1942.

7195

SEX OFFENDER, BEATEN TO FACE CHARGES TODAY

Bert D. Chick, 45, of 1200 W. 63d st., a printer, will be arraigned in South State Street court today on charges of assault and battery, according to Sam Paschek, an assistant state's attorney who prosecutes sex offenders. Chick was captured early yesterday near the home of Miss Marie Frank, 6431 Justine st., by a neighbor, Policeman George Luce, who heard her screams for help. Chick admitted he had been drinking heavily and said he remembered nothing. Witnesses, who beat the offender while the policeman was calling for a patrol wagon, agreed Chick was intoxicated, Papanek said.

NAB 2 RAPISTS, HUNT THIRD ON GIRL'S CHARGE

Chicago Daily Tribune
Chicago, Ill.

Police Say Prisoners Admitted Crime.

William Callinan, 21, said to be absent without leave from a Pennsylvania army post, was arrested yesterday by detectives of the homicide and sex bureau in connection with the abduction and rape of a young woman last Tuesday night.

Sgt. Patrick Touhy, head of the squad, said that Callinan admitted the charge, and implicated John Jakus, 29, of 1632 N. Claremont av., a civilian aviation instructor, who the police said also confessed raping the girl. A third man is being sought.

Search for the trio began the night of the abduction when a gasoline station attendant became suspicious when he saw one of the men holding his hand over the girl's mouth. He notified police, and gave them the license number of the car.

Fugitive Traced by Police.

The number was traced to Callinan, who had listed his address as 606 Belmont av., a barber shop. The barber said that he knew Callinan, who had told him he was home on furlough from Guadalcanal.

Touhy and the three members of his squad, Detectives Edwin O'Malley, John Kaniuk, and William Spence, began watching taverns in the vicinity of the abduction—Milwaukee and Belmont avs.—and finally seized Callinan as he emerged from one of the taverns.

Callinan wore a military police sergeant's uniform. He admitted, Touhy said, that he and the other two men had forced the girl into his car, driven her to a lonely spot in Melrose Park, where all three attacked her.

Traveling About Country.

Callinan, Touhy said, told him that he had been traveling in various parts of the country since he left the army camp. Part of the time he wore the sergeant's uniform; other times he donned civilian garb and accepted employment.

Police found in Callinan's pocket a calling card belonging to a resident of Marshalltown, Ia. Callinan said the Iowan had given him $628 to purchase liquor. Since he has been in Chicago, Callinan said, he has been buying liquor in case lots and reselling it in country villages and towns.

Touhy said Callinan had been in the army since Dec. 10, 1940, but had left the Pennsylvania camp last May. Questioned about a draft registration card indicating that he was in 2-B, Callinan said he had purchased the blank for $5 and had filled it in himself, Touhy said.

EX-CONVICT KILLED AFTER PARK ATTACK

Times-New York, N.Y.

Steals Taxi, Assaults Girl Fare and Is Shot in Dash From Police Station

Frank M. Messenger, burly thug and ex-convict, was killed by a policeman yesterday as he attempted to escape from the Central Park police station.

He had been taken to the station for questioning after stealing a taxicab, picking up a young woman fare and attacking her in the park, into which he had driven on the pretext that his car was out of gas and had motor trouble.

The cries of a small boy who witnessed the young woman's fight against her assailant brought Patrolman Ernest Pizzarelli to the scene. The thug, 6 foot 2 and weighing 185 pounds, was subdued and taken to the police station for booking on charges of grand larceny and rape.

While being questioned by Pizzarelli and other policemen, Messenger suddenly hurled a chair at his captor, threw a broomstick under his feet to trip him and made a lunge for the door. Pizzarelli opened fire at once and three of his shots took effect. One struck Messenger in the right leg, a second in the back and a third in the right side.

Victim Taken to Hospital

The young woman, 19 years old, a waitress who had come to the city only recently from West Virginia, was taken to Roosevelt Hospital, where she was treated for cuts and bruises on the face and body. Later in the day she had recovered sufficiently to be taken to the home of a sister, who, with the latter's husband, operates a luncheonette on Forty-third Street near Ninth Avenue.

Police said that Messenger had been working a week as a bus shifter at the Greyhound Garage in Long Island City. He was discharged Friday night. At 6 A. M. yesterday he stole a cab from a garage at 505 West Fifty-sixth Street.

The girl had worked in her sister's luncheonette until 7:30 A. M. Ten minutes later she hailed a cab to take her to her home on West Seventy-first Street. At the wheel was Messenger.

Despite her protest he drove into the park rather than along Central Park West. He said the car was out of gas and had motor trouble. She got out and he told her he would direct her out of the park, with which she was unfamiliar. She walked a step or two ahead of him. Without any warning, he came up from behind and grabbed her around the throat, the marks made by his fingernails were still visible hours later.

He said he would kill her if she made an outcry that it would be her "last look" at the lake—the spot was near the northeast Seventy-second Street entrance to the park in the vicinity of the lake. Despite his threats, she fought back fiercely and he beat her about the eyes, nose and face and threw her to the ground.

Resisted Earlier Arrest

Messenger's police record showed an arrest on an automobile larceny charge on Oct. 27, 1940. The indictment was dismissed. He was arrested for grand larceny, second degree, two months later to the day and was sentenced to a term of one year and three months to two years and three months. He was released from prison March 21, 1943.

Patrolman Andrew Galeazzi of the West Twentieth Street station recalled this arrest. He said he became suspicious when he saw Messenger and a girl leave a car with "M. D." plates near Ninth Avenue and Twenty-first Street. When he ordered Messenger to drive to the police station, the man tried to ram the car into a wall and told Galeazzi "I'm going to kill you." Messenger then tried to hit a truck and struck a parked car. The patrolman pressed a revolver against his body with a warning he would shoot if Messenger resisted.

Messenger, who was 25 years old, said at the police station yesterday that he lived at 31-57 Thirty-fourth Street, Astoria, Queens. The superintendent there said he knew of no such family although police in Manhattan said he had lived there with his parents.

Pizzarelli has been commended three times for excellent police duty and bravery. He was cited on June 12, 1931, for his part in the capture of Francis (Two-Gun) Crowley. On July 21, 1933, he was commended again for capturing a couple as they held up an elderly man in a store, and on Jan. 9, 1939, he shot and killed a deranged man in a pistol battle.

D. C. Officer Facing Rape Trial; Named As Father of Child

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Los Angeles, June 3 (AP)—Capt. Morrison Wilkinson, jr., of Washington, D. C., who will go before an Army general court-martial at the Santa Ana Army Air Base next Tuesday on charges of rape, was named today by Lorraine Murphy as the father of the child born to her May 29.

Captain Wilkinson is charged in one of the specifications of the court martial, with effecting a bigamous marriage with Miss Murphy in Phoenix, Ariz., August 6, 1934, when he still was legally married to Margaret Gonzales Wilkinson.

Miss Murphy's mother, Mrs. Irene Allred, said the child, a girl, was born in a nearby hospital.

Capt. Wilkinson, former "Flying Tiger" in China, is accused of raping Miss Caprice Caprone, 17-year-old Earl Carrol dancer; of lew and lascivious conduct against two other women; the commission of immoral acts against others, and two specifications of rape against one woman in the period of an hour.

Flier to Tell All At Rape Trial

World-Telegram
New York, N.Y.

By the Associated Press.

SANTA ANA, Cal., June 9.—Air Force Capt. Morrison J. Wilkinson, Jr., 28, was called to the witness stand today to tell a 10-officer court martial his life story and to defend himself against nine charges including bigamy, lewd and lascivious acts, statutory and forcible rape, attempted rape and larceny.

The former flight leader with the American Volunteer Group in China was prepared to relate a "full and complete story, with nothing held back," his counsel announced.

The prosecution's case against the Washington, D. C., flier was completed yesterday with questioning of Maj. C. E. Myers, provost marshal at the Santa Ana Army Base. Maj. Myers testified that, during inquiry into the case, Capt. Wilkinson admitted relations with Caprice Capron, 17 night club dancer. Miss Capron previously told the court that the accused beat and raped her last April 20 in the Hollywood hills.

A defense motion for dismissal of all nine specifications against Capt. Wilkinson was denied.

Girl, 17, Flustered on Stand At Officer's Sex Crime Trial

World-Telegram - New York, N.Y.

By the United Press.

SANTA ANA, Cal., June 7.—Caprice Capron, 17, who lied about her age to get a job in Earl Carroll's chorus, today was a confused and reluctant witness under cross-examination as she told her story of attack by Capt. Morrison J. Wilkinson, Jr., an army flier.

The captain, 28, charged with seven sex offenses within a week, kissed her once and then announced his intentions.

"That will be impossible," she said.

Captain Wilkinson, she said, opened the car door, pushed her to the ground and attacked her.

"I got away," she said, "but when I got back in the car he attacked me again."

Questioned by Capt. George E. Taylor on specific points, Miss Capron was unable to recall details, and frequently could not remember.

DANCER TELLS STORY OF RAPE AT ARMY TRIAL

Daily Tribune
Chicago, Ill.

Santa Ana, Cal., June 7 (AP).—Caprice Capron, a 17 year old dancer, told a board of army officers today she was raped April 20 by Capt. Morrison J. Wilkinson, a former flight leader of the American volunteer group in China.

She testified at the court martial of Capt. Wilkinson, 28, of Washington, D. C., who is being tried on charges of bigamy, rape, bigamy, and jewelry theft. Wilkinson has pleaded innocent. If convicted on the rape charge he could be sentenced to life imprisonment or death.

Miss Capron said Wilkinson drove her in an automobile to the Hollywood hills and began making advances.

Kicked Her, Says Dancer.

"I opened the door of the car and he kicked me to the ground," she testified. "He pulled my hair and bumped my head up and down on the pavement. I kicked him."

Miss Capron said Wilkinson then forced her into an unnatural sex act and pulled her back into his automobile and assaulted her. She said he finally took her home.

"There were abrasions on my back, some of my hair was pulled out, and there was a bump on the back of my head and bruises on my legs," she testified.

Kicked and Beaten by Captain, She Testifies.

6-8-44

In the bigamy charge, the government alleges that Wilkinson married Lawriene T. Murphy of Phoenix, Ariz., before his divorce from Margaret Gonzales Wilkinson became final. It also charges him with theft of jewelry from Mrs. Wilkinson.

Wife Tells of Assault.

The prosecution elicited testimony that Wilkinson, 23, a secretary, entered her apartment April 17 and forced her to submit to an unnatural sex act.

Girl Testifies To Wilkinson's Attack in Car

Post-Washington, D.C. 6-8-44

Santa Ana, Calif., June 7 (AP).—Caprice Capron, pretty 17-year-old dancer, otld a board of Army officers otday that she was raped last April 20 by Army Capt. Morrison J. Wilkinson of Washington, D. C.

"Instead of taking me home he took me to the Hollywood hills," Miss Capron testified at the court-martial of Wilkinson, 28-year-old officer who is being tried on specifications which include charges of bigamy, forcible rape, lewd and lascivius conduct toward women, and jewelry theft.

Girl Talks of Struggle

She declared that after he began making advances, "I opened the door of the car and he kicked me on the ground. He pulled my hair and bumped my head up and down o nthe pavement. I kicked him."

Miss Capron said the captain forced her into an unnatural sex act and then pulled her back into his automobile and assaulted her. She said he finally took her home.

"There were abrasions on my back, some of my hair was pulled out, there was a bump on the back of my head and bruises on my legs," she testified.

The Government alleges in the bigamy specifications that Captain Wilkinson married Lawriene T. Murphy of Phoenix, Ariz., before his divorce from Mrs. Margaret Gonzales Wilkinson was final, and charges him with theft of jewelry from Mrs. Wilkinson.

Wilkinso npleaded innocent on all charges.

Wife Makes Charges

From Mrs. Margaret Wilkinson, 23, private secretary, the Government elicited testimony that Wilkinson last April 17 entered her apartment and forced her to submit to an unnatural sex act.

Upon introduction of a letter—a portion of which referred to how the author of it allegedly had "fondled your beautiful white body"—Mrs. Wilkinson admitted it was written to her by a man she said she planne dto marry after her divorce from the Army captain becomes final. 6-8-44

"I have no apologies for my conduct with the other man," she declared. "This is our private affair."

If convicted of forcible rape, Wilkinson could be sentenced to life imprisonment or death.

He Faces Sex Charges

Post-Washington, D.C.

Associated Press WIREPHOTO

CAPT. MORRISON J. WILS— Capt. Morrison J. Wilkinson, jr., 28-year-old veteran of the China air war, who is on trial in California on charges ranging from rape to bigamy. The Government seeks to establish that he committed rape against Caprice Capro, night club dancer, last April 20

Neighbors Testify In Rape Case

Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky. 6-14-44

Dancer Accused Of Intimacies With Men

Santa Ana, Calif., June 13 (AP)—Hollywood neighbors of Caprice Capron, whose mother made the original complaint against Capt. Morrison J. Wilkinson, Jr., testified at the Army flier's court-martial today regarding the 17-year-old night club dancer's reputation.

Wilkinson's counsel called the neighbors as defense witnesses in the case in which the 28-year-old officer is charged with statutory and forcible rape, bigamy, lewd and lascivious conduct and larceny. Miss Capron testified she was beaten and raped by Captain Wilkinson last April 20.

Writer Testifies.

Alfred Norman Depew, a writer, said he twice saw Miss Capron in a car parked on a street, engaged in sexual intimacies with a man.

Mrs. George F. Walker, who lives in same apartment house with the mother and daughter, declared that Miss Capron often came in at early morning hours and entertained men in the apartment. 6-14-44

Mrs. Walker testified that Miss Capron's father came to her last Friday night and said: "I won't allow a hair of my daughter's head to be harmed. Don't you sign any affidavits. I don't want any scandal like the Charlie Chaplin case."

Victims Willing, Says Wilkinson

World-Telegram New York N.Y. 6-13-44

By the United Press.

SANTA ANA, Cal., June 13.—Capt. Morrison J. Wilkinson climaxed two days of testimony about his intimacies with five women by saying he was happily married and today awaited completion of his defense before a 10-man court-martial.

Capt. Wilkinson, charged with seven sex offenses, left the witness stand after brief cross-examination, during which he maintained that his asserted rape victims actually were willing partners. 6-13-44

Orchestra Leader Muzzy Marcellino today was slated to be among the witnesses as the defense neared the close of its case.

Capt. Wilkinson said Caprice Capron, showgirl, 17, whose charges that he beat and attacked her started the investigation leading to the court-martial, led him to believe she was 24.

An unidentified army private, who told of his own dates with Miss Capron, also testified.

FREE 3 ACCUSED BY ALLEGED RAPE VICTIM, AGED 15

6-29-44

Judge Joseph B. Hermes in Domestic Relations court Thursday dismissed charges against three men who had been arrested on complaint of Margery Krafthefer, 15, of 2913 Adams st. The men are Barney Kane, owner of the tavern at 2942 Madison st., charged with serving liquor to a minor; Charles Friedman, 44, a bartender there, charged with statutory rape, and Edward Plinck, night clerk at the California hotel, 2447 Washington blvd., charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The girl said Friedman raped her in the hotel after she had been served drinks in Kane's tavern. The men denied the charges.

Shipyard Worker Is Held In Child's Murder

Advertiser-Montgomery 6-14-44

NORWELL, MASS., June 13. (AP)—Jack Lopes, 55-year-old Scituate shipyard worker, was arrested late today on a warrant charging him with being an accessory after the fact of the murder of Frances McGrath, 10, whose ravished body he reported finding in a clump of woods here June 16. 6-14-44

He is the first person to be charged definitely in connection with the criminal assault and strangulation of the girl, although several persons, including Lopes himself, have been questioned and later released.

Tenn. White Man Killed in a Colored Farm House: Woman Claims Attempted Rape

The Whip—Miami, Fla. 8-26-44

JACKSON, Tenn. — Walker E. Proctor, white, age 43, residing on West King street, was found dead in a house on his farm about seven miles from here last Friday morning. The Sheriff, Ewing Griffin, was notified of Proctor's death by a colored woman who lived at the farm house and who admitted that she shot and killed Proctor in an effort to defend herself from abuse and threats on her life. When the officers accompanied the woman to the farm house they found Proctor's body lying between the bed and the wall inside the house. The woman was arrested and put in jail and investigation started to find other clues to the killing since there is not much inclination on the part of the whites to accept and publicize the story as told by the woman. Considerable secrecy surrounds the investigation and still more regarding the facts revealed, but there is no suspension of speculation and public versions of the matter. To discount the woman's report and connect others with the killing of this prominent white man would seem to find difficulty in furnishing motive for the deed. The robbery theory that has been advanced would test the credulity of the most stupid. Some questions would have to be answered no matter what explanation would be offered. Why would a white man leave his home here in the city and go to this farm house where the colored woman lived during the night or so early in the morning as has been reported? What was he doing in the woman's bedroom? The investigation may bring to light answers to these and to other questions. Many feel that the story of the woman furnishes the best and simplest answer to the questions raised.

8-26-44

Man Follows Her Home

Screams of Girl, 15, Frustrate Third Assault in 24 Hours

Post-Washington, D.C. 8-30-44

A 15-year-old schoolgirl, followed yesterday by a white man to the family's apartment in the 1600 block of Argonne pl. nw., was the third victim of an attempt at criminal assault within 24 hours in the District.

The girl told police that she was accosted by a man, 20 to 30 years old, while she was walking in the 3000 block of Mount Pleasant st. nw., hortly afternoon. He followed her home, police said, and forced his way into the apartment. Her screams scared him away and she was not raped, according to police.

Another attempt at criminal assault was reported to police yesterday at Emerson st. and Potomac Park where she was accosted by a dirty yellow shirt, light colored sport coat, light brown trousers, one shoe and one sandal, part of which was missing, police said.

Meanwhile, a Marine private was arrested by police early yesterday after a Government girl charged he attempted to criminally assault her Monday night near the Lincoln Memorial while a Negro, reported to have attempted to criminally assault another Goverment employe near the Chevy Chase Circle Monday night, remained at large.

The Marine, Pvt. William Morris, 29, stationed at the Marine Barracks at 22d st. and Constitution ave. nw., was turned over to the naval shore patrol. The complainant, Miss Dorothy L. Poore, 23, of 3332 Blaine st. ne., told police she had been raped.

Another Government worker, Miss Eleanor Benetzko, 38, of 3513 Blaine st. ne., told police she had been choked and had suffered cuts and bruises to her face, but that she had not been raped.

Miss Blaine told police that she was attacked by the Negro on Western ave. near Quesada st. nw. Police said Miss Benetzka, who was at large.

8-30-44

The condition of Mrs. Roger Prichard, who was raped Sunday from shock after running down Military

37m-1944

Kentucky

7/96

2 Of 3 Men Accused In Rape Held At Augusta

Special to The Courier-Journal.

Augusta, Ky., July 5.—Two of three men accused of complicity in the raping of a 14-year-old Augusta girl Saturday night were held under $2,000 bond in jail at Brooksville tonight, Sheriff Bob Poage announced.

He listed them as Marion England, 22, a soldier at home on furlough from a camp in Mississippi, charged with rape, and Logan Cooper, 27, Brooksville, charged with being an accessory. The sheriff said the third man sought was Pleas Teegarden, 26, Augusta, also accused of being an accessory. 7-6-44

Sheriff Poage said the girl was picked up here Saturday night by three men in an automobile, accompanied by a girl who later was taken home. Then the three men took the 14-year-old girl to a barn near Brooksville and held her there until she escaped Sunday morning.

NEWS CLIPPINGS FILE

GOV. SPARKS PLEDGES PROBE IN TAYLOR CASE

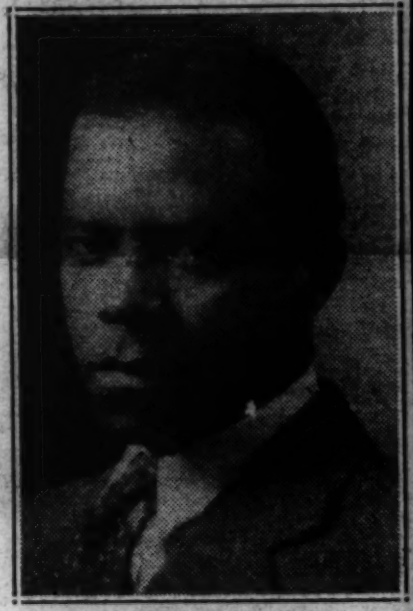
'Daily' Reporter Gets Promise Of Help to Ala. Rape Victim

By EUGENE GORDON

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 10.—Gov. Chauncy Sparks has given me his word that the attack on Mrs. Recy Taylor, Negro, at Abbeville, Ala., Sept. 3, by a gang of white youths, will be immmediately and thoroughly investigated.

The Governor's promise was conveyed first through his Attorney General, William N. McQueen, with whom I had an earlier appointment at his office in the Judicial Building.

Anticipating my question, proof that the campaign to force justice for Mrs. Taylor has already borne fruit, the Attorney General said that if I was there on "that Abbeville matter" I "could rest assured that a thorough and complete investigation will be made by special investigators working out of my office."



EUGENE GORDON

Gov. Sparks, whose office is on the first floor of the State Capitol, one block above the Judicial Building, repeated McQueen's promise word for word. He said that he and the Attorney General had just conferred on the matter. This, I felt, confirmed my surmise that Gov. Sparks and Attorney General McQueen got together to discuss the case when they learned that I had made an appointment to see each of them. Having declared that his chief law official and he had just conferred, the Governor said:

"This matter never reached me officially. I heard of it only by rumors. But I am determined to get an official report on it, and that is why I have ordered my best investigators to get to work on it."

He declined to read an affidavit I proffered him on the case. He said he knew "the

(Continued on Page 2)

Resistance Grows

—See Page 3

Allies OK New Bonomi Gov't

Togliatti Vice Premier; Cabinet Meets Tomorrow

—See Back Page

Budapest Drive Gains

—See Page 3

A Courageous Mission in the South

By LOUIS F. BUDENZ

It has taken considerable courage for Eugene Gordon, Negro member of the Daily Worker staff, to bring the news of the outrage in this Taylor case, from the heart of the Black Belt to the nation's attention.

A Negro seeking justice in the South is not in the most enviable position at the best of times. A Negro newspaper man is under handicaps which have not deterred or daunted Gordon in his mission. He has gone to Abbeville, the scene of the crime, has talked to the victim and her family and now has wrung this promise from the Governor of Alabama and his chief law enforcing officer.

The Taylor rape case is one of those sordid blots on America's democracy which have to be speedily removed. On the evening of Sept. 3, Mrs. Recy Taylor, a young Negro woman, was set upon by six white youths, beaten badly and raped by each of them.

Although the assailants were known, the law enforcement machinery of Alabama has refused to move in the case. In that state, where Negroes are so frequently accused of "rape" or "assault" as an excuse to murder and maltreat them in some other savage way, it has been "impossible" for the law to act against the white assailants of this Negro woman.

In this brutal disregard for the rights of Negro womanhood, the entire matter of

(Continued on Page 2)

NEWS CLIPPINGS FILE

iet Foreign Commissar Viacheslav Molotov and French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault affixed their signatures in the presence of Gen. Charles de Gaulle and Premier Marshal Joseph Stalin, De Gaulle and the French delegation, which has been conferring with Soviet officials for the past week, left Moscow.

The text of the treaty remains to be published.

"I hope our treaty will be a splendid basis for further development of Franco-Soviet relations and a new blow to the enemy," Motlov told De Gaulle at the Kursk station from

De Gaulle in turn made a brief address in which he said the few days he spent in Moscow **"will mark a date in the history of this war and will, I believe, also make itself felt in the peace for our two nations and for the good of all mankind.**

"Long live Soviet Russia!"

A military band played the Marseillaise and the Soviet national anthem, and before boarding the train De Gaulle took the salute of a guard of honor marching past with bayonets fixed. Soviet officials accompanied him to the frontier where planes awaited him.

V. MOLOTOV

Military Service Drive Opened

A nationwide campaign in support of compulsory military service was announced yesterday by the Citizens Committee for Universal Training.

The committee, with local headquarters at 28 E. 39 St., is headed by Douglas Arant of Birmingham, Ala. Co-chairmen are William R. Mathews of Tucson, Ariz., Orville J. Taylor of Chicago and Archibald G. Thacher of New York.

In announcing the national campaign, Mr. Thacher said that a "carefully planned system of nationwide training" would "make clear to the proposed world organization for peace and security the ability as well as the intention of the United States to perform any obligation assumed."

Butchers Ordered To Label Meats

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 (UP).—In a move to counteract "red market" practices in meat sales, the Office of Economic Stabilization tonight ordered stricter grade labeling of dressed meat carcasses.

Under a new enforcement policy to cut down the sale of unrationed beef, veal, game and mutton as the more expensive rationed types, sellers were ordered to put the label of the grade of meat at intervals of every two inches along all the primal cuts.

This will inform the housewife of the grade of meat being purchased and is seen as a safeguard against upgrading—a practice that costs money and red ration points.

BUY WAR BONDS

FDR Foes On Postwo

Daily Worker Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1(
have done an important littl
tion projects to gather info
planning.

Stricken from a supplement
appropriation bill passed by th
House on Friday was more tha
$16,000,000 which the President ha
asked to conduct essential surveys

It is expected that administratio
leaders in the Senate will make
fight to restore funds for the
surveys.

Cut out of the bill were items f
the Commerce Department
$2,400,000 to conduct and compile
census of manufacture and $1,200
000 for a sample census of busines
Republican Congressman mad
points of order against these an
several other items which were sus
tained.

By a 109 to 48 vote the Hou
rejected an amendment by Re
Malcolm Tarver of Georgia to re
store a $5,000,000 appropriation fo
a census of agriculture.

President Roosevelt had indicat
ed personal interest in these sur
veys which were designed to facili
tate plans for the administratio
program of 60,000,000 postwar job

Also eliminated from the appro
priation bill were funds whic
would have permitted a more ac
curate picture of consumer incom
and expenditures and would hav
made it possible for the Bureau o
Labor Statistics to revise its no
outmoded cost of living index.

The Bureau of Labor Statistic
was denied $11,532,000 for a con
sumer expenditures study. The De
partment of Commerce denie
$3,500,000,000 for a consumer incom

Fighting for Justice In Heart of Black Belt

(Continued from Page 1)

air and democratic dealing with the Negro people is subjected to scorn. The disposition of the Taylor case is a key test as to the reality of decency and democracy in America

The Daily Worker and The Worker have made this fight for justice their own. A conference, called by these papers, was held on Nov. 25 in New York, at which 40 representatives of trade union, church and civic organizations were present It was there decided that this Abbeville outrage should be called to the attention of the AFL and CIO affiliates and the nation thoroughly aroused to the necessity for assuring justice in this case. A continuation committee was created to direct the work of moving labor organizations and other groups to act upon the matter.

The first work for the continuation committee is that which Gordon is now carrying on so well in Alabama.

Now, with Gov. Sparks saying he will investigate, it is imperative that every one join in the moves decided upon by the Nov. 25 conference. Wire or write Alabama's Governor and tell him you expect justice to be done and the assailants of Mrs. Taylor brought to trial. Tell Attorney General Francis Biddle in Washington action is also looked for from the Department of Justice in preserving decency in the South and specifically in the Taylor case. Your union or civic organization, too, has an obligation to help in this matter, to vindicate our democracy. Enroll its aid.

TAYLOR RALLY SET IN BROOKLYN

An action rally around the tregedy of Mrs. Recy Taylor will be held Wednesday at 8:30 p.m., at 107 Herkimer St., Brooklyn, under the sponsorship of the Young Adult Division of the American Youth for Democracy.

The meeting will demand prosecution of Mrs. Taylor's attackers. Speakers will be Assemblyman Hulan Jack and Winifred Norman, national AYD vice-chairman. Miss Norman will give a first hand report on the delegation now visiting the Governor of Alabama.

Postal Clerks Ask Aid to Mrs. Taylor

A federal and state probe to arrest and punish white hoodlums who attacked Mrs. Recy Taylor, wife of a Negro soldier, near Abbeville, Ala., is sought by AFL postal clerks, members of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, Local 251, Brooklyn.

The local appropriated $10 to aid the work of the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Taylor, which is acting on her behalf, and sent letters to Alabama Gov. Chauncey Sparks and Attorney Gen. Francis X. Biddle asking their intervention. Mrs. Taylor, a young mother, was attacked months ago. Her attackers, though said to have been identified, were never brought to justice.

Gov. Sparks Pledges Probe in Taylor Case

(Continued from Page 1)

whole story" but did not say when or how he got it. Daily Worker

The complete story of the kidnapping and raping of Mrs. Taylor has, in the meantime, come more fully into focus. Accompanied by a notary public, I interviewed her and the two witnesses in her home on the outskirts of Abbeville yesterday. While rain blew in billowing sheets outside the wretched cabin she occupies with her husband, Willie Guy Taylor, her two-year-old daughter, Joyce Lee, and, apparently, several other persons, Mrs. Taylor retold the story which by now is spreading throughout the South.

Mrs. Fannie Daniels, 61, and West Daniels, her 18-year-old son, sat by to verify the story. They were witnesses to the kidnapping of Mrs. Taylor that Sunday night last September, when the three were returning late from the Rock Hill Holiness Church.

They signed their names to the written story and swore to it. The notary affixed his seal. 12-11-44

Mrs. Taylor brought out in yesterday's interview that she had been ruptered by the attack, but that not one of the townspeople came to see her or offer to provide a doctor.

37n(2)-1944

Only 2 Lynchings In '44, Decline of One From '43

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 30 (AP)—A decline in lynchings during 1944 was reported today by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute.

Dr. Patterson said in his annual report on the subject that two persons were lynched during the past year, one less than in 1943.

Both persons lynched were Negroes. The lynchings occurred in Mississippi and Tennessee.

7197

370-1944

Davis Demands Biddle Arrest Of Miss. Lynchers

Daily Worker—New York, N.Y. 8-26-44

The lynching of Rev. Isaac Simmons, Negro minister, in the state of Mississippi is a shocking, fascist crime against American democracy, Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., stated yesterday as he demanded that Attorney General Biddle take immediate steps to bring the known criminals to justice and guarantee enforcement of the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments. 8-25-44

"This crime," the councilman said, "flaunts the will of the American people, including the thousands of progressive southerners who are fighting the present war in order that lynching and oppression may be banished from the earth. Victory and a free postwar world demand immediate action."

Rev. Simmons, 66 years old, was lynched on March 26 because he hired a lawyer to protect his farm in Amite County, Miss., after rumors that there was oil on his land. His son, Eldridge, present at the lynching, has sworn out affidavits against the murerers.

Lynching of Texas Suspect Feared

Afro American—Baltimore, Md. 8-26-44

BRANHAM, Tex. (ANP)—The belief is current here that James Rogers, 35, was lynched following his release from jail last week on an adultery charge involving a white girl.

Rogers disappeared shortly after being released and was not heard from until his bullet-ridden body was found on a lonely country road about twenty-nine miles from Prairie View on Tuesday.

Youth Acquitted By Illinois Jury On Rape Charge

Defender—Chicago, Ill. 12-9-44

CHARLESTON, Ill.—J. C. Peoples, 19-year-old youth from the Deep South, found out that some Illinois whites are no different from the majority of those in Alabama, but he did get a better break in the jury's decision than is usually meted out "down home."

Peoples was acquitted by an all-white jury of seven women and five men of a charge of attempted rape upon Janice Benz, 19-year-old white girl, who alleged that he attempted to attack her in a school yard in Mattoon one night last August.

However, much credit must be given to Mrs. Louise Pope, a Southern white woman of Mobile, Ala., who made the trip to Illinois for the special purpose of serving as a character witness for the hapless youth and lend her bit "to rectify a great injustice that has been heaped upon J. C."

Mrs. Pope testified that for a number of years she has operated a dormitory for white girls, and that Peoples was employed at one time as a butler and in the capacity of doing odd chores. She stated that whenever the girls were in their rooms Peoples would not even attempt to go into the building. She was positive in her assertion that he would not have attempted to do what the Benz girl had charged.

The Benz girl claimed that she was walking along a street near the school when caught by the arm and threatened with a knife. She further testified that she was made to enter the school yard and thrown to the ground but her would-be-assailant ran upon hearing voices. She identified Peoples as the person who attempted to attack her. 12-9-44

Two white boys alleged that they were positive that Peoples was the person seen coming from the school yard on the night the Benz girl declared she had been molested. However, there were a number of other witnesses, white and colored, who testified as to the youth's whereabouts for several hours, including the time at the girl said the attempted attack took place.

The trial began on Monday afternoon. The jury deadlocked but finally brought in a "not guilty" verdict after midnight Tuesday.

Peoples was represented by Atty. George H. Trenary, white, who was appointed by the court to defend the youth. The boy had been in jail since August 3, when he was arrested. 12-9-44

The Chicago branch of the N.A.A.C.P. made an investigation of the case at the request of the Mobile branch of the association.

17-Year Old Sailor Given 60 Years

Journal + Guide—Norfolk, Va. 8-5-44

Convicted On Ten Counts Of Rape Attempts

NORFOLK—Seventeen years old, and small of stature, Melvin Cobb, a naval seaman, heard himself sentenced to 60 years in the penitentiary by Judge R. R. Spindle of Corporation Court No. 1, Tuesday.

The sentence was imposed following conviction upon six counts of attempted rape upon white women—penalties being ten years on each count.

Undefended except by a court appointed attorney, the youth, with a blank expression on his face, heard an array of witnesses, white women, point an accusing finger at him. He waived trial by jury and elected to be tried by the court.

THE CHARGES 8-5-44

Cobb was charged with house breaking with the intent to commit rape in four cases, and in two indictments he was charged with attempted rape resulting from sidewalk attacks on young women. He was alleged to have committed three of the offenses on June 11, and all but one between June 9 and 18.

Testimony adduced at the trial said that the defendant had broken into houses on West Forty-second street, Cottage Toll road, West Forty-eighth street and Bay View boulevard.

SIDEWALK ATTACKS

The sidewalk attacks were said to have been made upon two unattended girls, one in the 200 block of West Twenty-sixth street and the other in the 400 block of Sherwood place. In each case Cobb had been unsuccessful in his attempts, it was testified. 8-5-44

In passing sentence, Judge Spindle said the sentences were not to run concurrently but consecutively, thus amounting to a life sentence. He explained that the prisoner would be eligible for parole after serving 20 years.

Woman's Fake Rape Charges Strike Back

Amsterdam News—New York, N.Y. 10-7-44

Case Against Boys Dropped As Police Put Arkansas Woman Under Arrest

LITTLE ROCK, (ANP) — A white woman's story, concerning her rape by two Negro boys was dropped last week when Mrs. A. L. Tennyson was arrested on charges of immorality.

The Tennyson woman in early September went to police and complained that two Negro soldiers had forced her up an alley and raped her. A probe was begun, though Chief of Detectives Martin claimed that the woman's story was flimsy from the start.

Monday, at the Hotel Marion, a leading white Southwest hotel, two officers arrested the white woman and her male companion and the couple was not released until they provided bonds totalling $400. At a municipal court hearing both pleaded guilt, and both were fined $20 on charges of immorality and ordered to submit to physical examinations. When Mrs. Tennyson failed to show up at the trial, a warrant was issued for her arrest.

After the alleged rape, Mrs. Tennyson was called in by detectives to identify her alleged Negro attackers, who were supposedly among the 1,500 Negro soldiers lined up. Mrs. Tennyson's attempt failed completely.

Taxi Operator Is Given 12 Months On Assault Charge

Daily World—Atlanta, Ga. 10-13-44

Ernest Dixon, of a 148 Harris street, Atlanta taxicab operator, was found guilty of assault with intent to rape, in the Fulton Superior Court by an all-white 12 man jury, and was sentenced to 12 months by Judge Hugh M. Dorsey who presided during the two da hearing. The jury returned th verdict Thursday afternoon, fol lowing the charge by the cour The case went to Wednesday, wit Assistant Solicitor J. R. Parhar prosecuting, and Joe Ewing ser ving as defense counsel.

Dixon was charged with takin a young Atlanta woman into hi cab on the early morning of March 23, 1944, after she is alleged t have hired him to take her to he home on Auburn avenue, from chop suey place on Bell street and instead of taking her to he address, he carried her to the outskirts of the city where the assault occured. This the state contended. 10-18-44

The defense argued that the victim had been in the company of Dixon, and had been with him to a dance earlier. It further argued that the woman drank with Dixon before the assault. A new trial is asked by Mr. Ewing, he said.

PM Predicts Freedom for 4 in Miss. Lynching Case

Afro American—Baltimore, Md. 10-14-44

NEW YORK.—(ANP)—In an article dateline, October 16, the newspaper PM predicted that the Mississipp jury trying four white men for the lynching of the Rev. Isaac Simmons, Jerusalem, Miss., will return a verdict of "not guilty."

Tracing the brutal cutting of the preacher's tongue and the cowardly shooting of the man, PM said:

"Today is October 7. Notice that we have declined the story of October 16, which is nine days away.

"We hope that we are making a serious mistake in writing this news before it occurs, but we have not the slightest reason to believe that our hope will come

Ministers Offer $566 For Apprehension Of Lynchers

Daily World—Atlanta, Ga. 12-11-44

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 11—More than $566 has been revealed that the church body has collected as reward, and that more funds are being collected in addition to the reward, and that put up as reward for the punishment of the Thanksgiving Day lynchers of James Scales, 46 - year - old Negro youth, near Nashville, Tennessee. The reward fund is still growing.

The letter, signed by the Rev. S. S. Morris, Jr., president, and the Rev. M. M. League, corresponding secretary, of the Alliance said:

"As the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance of Nashville, Tennessee, this week, to add to the $500.00 offered by Governor Prentice Cooper, and Congressman Jere Cooper, and matched by an offer of $500.00 from the Anna Damon Fund of the I.L.D. 12-15-44

A letter to Congressman Jere Cooper, president of the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance of Nashville, we wish to commend you and the organization for this act which we regard as being prompted by your adherence and devotion to the democratic and Christian principles upon which our nation is founded."

First $500.00 was offered by Governor Prentice Cooper, and matched by an offer of $500.00 from the Anna Damon Fund of the I.L.D. 12-15-44

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Italy Repeats The Pattern

Pittsburgh Courier 12-2-44

According to a New York Times dispatch from Rome, Italy, it is revealed that Donato Carreta, a former prison director, who was lynched by the enraged populace recently, was actually innocent of the crimes for which he paid with his life. Instead of being pro-Fascist, he was actually anti-Fascist.

11-18-44

This is the traditional American pattern. Thousands of Americans who were innocent of any crime have been lynched by mobs in this country.

The important difference is that in this case the President of the United States condemned and deplored the Roman lynching while he has said no word about the 125 Negroes who have been lynched in this country since he assumed office in 1933.

Press Probe Of School Where Lynching Occurred

Daily World — Atlanta, Ga.

12-6-44

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—(S N S)—Senator-elect George Chandler of Knox County will press for a legislative investigation of conditions in the State Training and Agricultural School for Negro boys at Pikeville as soon as the legislature convenes, he said last week-end. The training school was the site of a recent lynching of James T. Scales, one of the inmates following the slaying of two white women there the preceding Thursday.

Senator Chandler attended a meeting of the Triad Club sponsored by the Negro branch YMCA, at which a report of conditions at the school were given by the Rev. D. A. Jackson, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Rev. Jackson said the school "is a victim of the state's political spoils system" and revealed that the Religious Advisory Group of Juvenile Court on Child Delinquency has endorsed his suggestions for re-location of the school, and hiring of Negro personnel, with a superintendent who has majored in social science. Of the 295 inmates at the school, Rev. Jackson said he found only 21 of normal mentality ranging in age from 7 to 20 years of age. Only one was above normal. He charged that failure to segregate the inmates was another serious mistake, and said brutality of the white guards was unbelievable.

12-6-44

Rev. Jackson said further that he talked with the boy who killed the two women and found he was mentally short. 'He had a definite murder complex, the minister stated, "and shouldn't have been confined in such an institution, but since he was there it was gross stupidity on Mr. Scott's (the warden) part to place him in that home and make a trusty out of him. Mr. Scott certainly invited tragedy."

NASHVILLE MINISTERS TAKE ACTION IN PIKEVILLE, TENNESSEE LYNCHING

NASHVILLE, Tenn.(S N S)—The Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance of Nashville, Tenn., has recently taken a forward step in the case of the lynching of James T. Scales at the State Reformatory in Pikeville on November 23rd. At the direction of the executive committee of this body, a great mass meeting was called at the Spruce Street Baptist Church, of which the Rev. Jesse Jai McNeil is the pastor. Approximately a thousand people gathered into this historic church to hear leading citizens of Nashville outline the course to be taken to bring the offenders against law and order to justice. As a direct result over $700.00 in cash has been added to the $500.00 promised by the governor, Prentice Cooper, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the guilty.

Attorney Z. A. ooby, Rev. Jesse Jai McNeil, Dean W. J. Faulkner and Rev. J. T. Patton were the main speakers. The Rev. S. S. Morris, Jr., president of the Alliance, placed before the gathering the action taken by the Ministers and called for the people of the State of Tenn., to support by their dollars this worthy cause. A letter was read by Rev. C. M. Johnson which had been drawn up to send to Governor Cooper, pledging the support of the Ministers in his effort to bring to justice the offenders.

12-6-44

Attorney Z. A. Looby, Rev. Jesse stated that the principle of the law involved is that a person is considered innocent until he is proven guilty. He cited this principle to state that we were not concerned with whether James T. Scales was guilty or not guilty but with the outrageous conduct of any group of persons who take the law in their own hands to administer garnishment upon an accused denying him his democratic right under the law of trial by jury.

Dean Faulkner stressed the fact that so long as a mob is allowed to lynch any one, no one is safe.

12-6-44

Rev. J. T. Patton, in his call for the funds to supplement that offered by Governor Cooper as a reward, stated that nothing he could say would be necessary since our very presence indicated that all were ready to give for the cause of justice. He added that the fair name of the Volunteer State of Tennessee had been disgraced, and that all true Americans should arise to defend the cause of law and order. In response to his plea over $521.00 was placed on the table in just a few minutes. '(At this writing this amount has been increased to over $800.00. Congressman Vito Marcantonio of New York, has added $500.00 to the reward in behalf of the International Labor Defense of which he is the president, making the present total reward fund more than $1800.00) The gifts placed on the table came from churches, civic organizations, schools and individuals. Many others made pledges to be paid within a week to swell the total.

Cop Suspended for Part in Rape Case

New York, N.Y.

BOSTON (ANP)—Patrolman John F. Heffernan, attached to the Roxbury Crossing police station, was suspended for 30 days without pay and assigned 100 hours of punishment duty this week, on the basis of his testimony in support of another policeman who had been charged with attempting to attack a Roxbury Negro. Patrolman Michael McDonough, accused of attempted rape on Mrs. Inez Jones, was subsequently freed after the Suffolk County grand jury failed to indict him. He resigned, however, while awaiting a police-board trial.

8-26-44

Heffernan supported McDonough's claim that he had rung three police boxes during the period the alleged attack occurred, and a police trial-board found Heffernan guilty of neglect of duty and recommended 100 hours' punishment duty. The additional 30-day suspension was imposed by Police Commissioner Thomas F. Sullivan.

Robert Hall's Widow Sues For $3,000 And Fees

Daily World-Atlanta, Ga.
1-26-44

Bonding Company For Sheriff Screws Named Defendant

NEWNAN, Ga. — (SNS)— The case of Sheriff M. Claude Screws of Baker County, convicted in federal court at Albany last October for violating the civil rights of the U. S. Code after the lynching of a prisoner came to the fore again when the victim's widow, Mrs. Annie Pearl Hall, filed a damage suit against the National Surety Company, the Sheriff's bonding firm, in Albany city court.

In her petition, the widow of Robert Hall, who died as the result of alleged mistreatment after his arrest by Sheriff Screws and two deputies, charged that the bonding ocmpany refused to pay her claim for damages, filed after her husband's death. For this alleged failure, the widow asks $3,000 plus 25 per cent of that sum of damages and an additional $1,000 for attorney fees.

The Surety firm is charged in two additional courts with bonding Sheriff Screws for amounts declared to be less than legal minimum. Judgment of $10,000 is asked by the plaintiff in these counts.

Hall's widow charges Sheriff Screws and two deputies, Frank Edward Jones and Jim Bob Kelly, with beating Hall while in their custody, on January 29, 1943, with the result that he died a few hours after being admitted to an Albany hospital. 1-26-44

Sheriff Screws was sentenced by U. S. District Judge Bascom S. Deaver to three years in prison and fined $1,000. The Sheriff filed an appeal and was freed under bond. Since that time, however, the U. S. Circuit court of Appeals at New Orleans upheld the convictions of the lower court, thus overruling contention of Counsel for Screws that the federal court was without jurisdiction and that the case was properly a state case for action.

Governor Johnston Says Race Would Lynch Youth

Daily World—Atlanta, Ga.
7-23-44

SUMTER, S. C.—Negroes wanted to lynch fourteen year old George Stinney, Jr., of Alcolu, Governor Olin D. Johnston said in a letter to Sumter's ministers June 14, it was disclosed this week. The governor's statement came in reply to a plea that the lad, who last Friday died in the electric chair for the death of two little white girls, be spared because of his extreme youth.

Declaring that he had nothing to do with the case himself and recounting the report of arresting and questioning officers, Governor Johnston said: "One other thing, the colored people of Alcolu would have lynched this boy themselves had it not been for the protection of officers."

CHARGE DENIED

Subsequent questioning of Negro leaders at Alcolu failed to reveal more than a feeling of "pity and grief" for the fate of the fourteen year old lad. Leaders agreed that tension was high but said that this was because of "anti-Negro" sentiments and feelings that followed the incident. For several days after the crim Negroes were antagonized and some even abused. A "lynch" spirit pervaded the community in Sumter County and but for the efforts of officers the state might have had its first lynching in 20 years. 7-23-44

RACE JOINED HUNT

It is felt here that the governor's statement may have been based on the fact that Negroes joined with whites in a posse hunting the slayer, at which time his racial identity was not known. Some of those in the posse describe the white men as "talking about a rope party" after the boy was taken into custody. Negroes did not share in this feeling, they said.

Fear Texas Negro Lynched On White Girl's Charges

Defender—Chicago, Ill.
1-26-44

BRENHAM, Texas. — (ANP) — Was James Rogers, 35, secretly lynched?

That unanswered question has rocked this community since his bullet-ridden body was found Tuesday on a lonely country road near old Washington community, about 29 miles from Prairie View.

Rogers had been charged with adultery with a white girl. Placed in jail, he disappeared soon after his release and was not heard from until his dead body was discovered.

Renominate Sheriff Convicted In Lynching

Informer-Houston, Texas
Mar. 18, 1944

ALBANY — (ANP) — Interpreted by many as a slap at the federal government, white voters Thursday renominated Sheriff Claude M. Screws, convicted with two other officers in the lynching of Robert Hall, 29-year-old mechanic. The nomination under the Georgia white democratic primary is tantamount to election.

Screws is at liberty under $7,500 bond pending an appeal of his conviction to the United States Supreme court. The three-year sentence and $1,000 fine against the three officers have already been affirmed by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals sitting at New Orleans.

Admits Rape Story Was Lie After 11 Negroes Arrested

Tribune—Washington, D.C.
9-16-44

After eleven Negroes had been detained and three detectives had spent more than thirty hours investigating, Mrs. Anita Grimes, 24, of 813 I Street, N.W., admitted on Sunday that her report she had been raped by a middle-aged Negro on her way home at 4 a.m., Saturday was a lie.

Lt. Robert Bryant, who headed the investigation, said Mrs. Grimes had signed a statement admitting the lie, but declined to reveal any motive for her action. The suspects were immediately ordered released.

The woman told police she was walking home from a lithograph company at 1150 First Street, N.W., when a Negro forced her at the point of a knife into an alley at Fourth and New York Avenues. Her confession followed lengthy questioning. Police said no charges could be placed against the liar as she made her complaint to a precinct. A false report can be prosecuted only when police or patrol cars are dispatched to receive the report.

PLAIN TALK By Dan Gardner

World-Memphis, Tenn.

Says Fear Keeps Race In Chains

10-24-44

PERHAPS FEAR plays as prominently a role as ignorance in the things that keep us a race from full recognition by others as men and women in every sense of the word. Ignorance and fear are so intertwined that both act as millstone to hold us down.

This week we shall examine again a form of the consequences of fear of the white man which insolres cowardice, destroys self respect and respect from those whose attitudes we are seeking to change.

At Jerusalem, Mississippi a 66-year-old Negro minister was murdered in cold blood by four white men—for nothing. PM, the militant New York daily, prosupposes in a story released nine days before the trial of the four men at Jackson, Mississippi, just which way lily-white justice will nod her head. The question answers itself—they are expected to go free. PM sent Elizabeth Wilson, a white reporter, down to Washington to check with the Civil Liberties Section of the Department of Justice and then to Mississippi to check the facts in the case, and her findings convinced the editors of PM that the four white men named in the case would be freed and that white supremacy would still rule. PM charged that there was one chance in a million that the courts of this kind of justice would be proved incorrect and the guilty persons punished in measures equal to the crime.

THE REAL PROBELM

Now, here's how fear enters the matter. At Jerusalem, Mississippi, Negroes were even afraid to tell Miss Wilson the real story. Said one, "I well tell you what happened but, if you ever tell anybody I talked to you, I will get killed." This type of fear of white men, who have taken the law into their own hands, is a real Negro problem in the South.

Here is a man who knows he will be killed by white outlaws, yet does not have the courage to protect himself by killing the other man first. He knows minding his own business and "staying in his place" won't help if these white hoodlums and brigands decide he is in their way. 10-24-44

When white men lived in the open spaces of the West, each man was his own law—as it is the South where white men and Negroes are concerned. They made it a habit to be quick on the draw and was ready to fight and die, if necessary, to protect property and family.

FEAR NEVER DOMINATED

Fear often was present among them as it usually is among all species of mankind but it never dominated and enveloped whole masses of people, permeated their thinking, and controlled their very actions as it does the Negro. Until the Negro man in the South is ready to meet the Noble Ryders and Harper Dawsons on their own terms, they will be begging for

7199

Witnesses Fail to Show In Mississippi Murder

PM—New York, N.Y.
10-17-44

Vanish Before Jury Meets; PM's Story Coming True

Special Correspondence

LIBERTY, Miss., Sept. 17.—The actual ending of the case of four white men named as murderers of a 66-year-old Negro minister near here apparently will vary but slightly from the ending of PM's deliberately premature story on Oct. 8, which anticipated a "white-wash" of the four suspects by a white Amite County Grand Jury.

The case has not developed into a "whitewash." Instead it appears as if it will die from neglect. Four Negro witnesses expected to testify before the Grand Jury yesterday failed to appear.

No Answer

Sheriff Wiley Smith said that the missing Negroes had been in the county up to a few days ago, but for some reason he was at a loss to explain, had vanished to New Orleans, Memphis and "somewhere down in Louisiana."

10-17-44

Eldridge Simmons, son of Isaac, the aged victim, was supposed to be in New Orleans, Sheriff Smith said. He explained he had wired New Orleans asking the police to locate Simmons and to tell him that he was wanted as a witness. Smith said last night he had not heard if Simmons had been found.

The Sheriff said that similar wires had been sent to Memphis for Mrs. Laura Lee Houston and her husband, whose name the Sheriff couldn't recall. No answer from Memphis, either.

The fourth witness, Smith said, is Mrs. Emma Bates, daughter of the murder victum. She was supposed to have gone to Memphis, too, but he had learned that she had left and gone to work "somewhere down in Louisiana in a sawmill."

10-17-44

Not Hopeful

That's where the case stands today. The Grand Jury, the Sheriff pointed out, can't act if witnesses aren't present. The Jury sits through Thursday, he said, and if the witnesses do not appear by that time the only thing that can be done is to continue the case to the next sitting. He wasn't hopeful on the chances of any of the witnesses reaching Liberty in time.

The four suspects in the murder are Harper Dawson, Noble Ryder and two of his brothers.

According to an affidavit by Eldridge Simmons, who is small and crippled, these four and two other men appeared at his father's farm on Mar. 26, herded Eldridge and his father into a car, drove down a wooded road, beat Eldridge and beat his father and then shot the latter to death with a shotgun.

10-17-44

Isaac Simmons earlier in the year had employed a lawyer to clear up the title to his 225 acre farm. Noble Ryder earlier had bought part of the farm and was trying to sell its mineral rights.

Mississippi Negro's Slaying Investigated

News—Birmingham, Ala.
10-21-44

NATCHEZ, Miss.—(AP)—An Amite County Grand Jury armed with a report of an FBI investigation, plans to continue its consideration of the slaying of a Negro preacher near Liberty, Miss., last March. Four white men are out under $1,000 bond each in connection with the slaying.

Dist. Atty. Joe E. Brown said here Friday that the Grand Jury's investigation of the slaying was delayed by difficulties in rounding up state witnesses, mostly Negroes.

Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle had announced in Washington Thursday that federal officials in Mississippi had been instructed to turn over the FBI report to the Grand Jury.

Dixie Justice Still Stalled

PM—New York, N.Y.
10-18-44

Special Correspondence

LIBERTY, Miss., Sept. 18.—The Amite County Grand Jury marked time here today in the case of four white men named as murderers of a 66-year-old Negro minister. Four Negro witnesses, scheduled to testify on Monday, were still missing and there was no indication that Sheriff Wiley Smith would be able to find them before the Grand Jury adjourns tomorrow.

PM, in a deliberately premature story on Oct. 8, anticipated a "white-wash" of the four white suspects by the white jury, but it now appears the case will die from neglect.

10-18-44

The missing witnesses, variously reported to have vanished to New Orleans, Memphis and "somewhere down in Louisiana" include Eldridge Simmons, son of Isaac, the aged victim, who signed an affidavit naming four men he accused of abducting his father, beating him and killing him with a shotgun.

White Woman's Rape Story Proved Fake

Call—Kansas City, Mo.
10-6-44

LITTLE ROCK.—(ANP)—A white woman's story concerning her rape by two Negro boys was dropped last week when Mrs. A. L. Tennyson was arrested on charges of immorality.

The Tennyson woman in early September went to police and complained that two Negro soldiers had forced her up an alley and raped her. A probe was begun, though Chief of Detectives Martin claimed that the woman's story was flimsy from the start.

Monday, at the Hotel Marion, a leading white southwest hotel, two officers arrested the white woman and her male companion and the couple was not released until they provided bonds totalling $400. At a municipal court hearing both pleaded guilty, and both were fined $20 on charges of immorality and ordered to submit to physical examinations. When Mrs. Tennyson failed to show up at the trial, a warrant was issued for her arrest.

After the alleged rape, Mrs. Tennyson was called in by detectives to identify her alleged Negro attackers, who were supposedly among the 1,500 soldiers lined up. Mrs. Tennyson's attempt failed completely.

Leavenworth Woman Who Yelled 'Rape' Admits That She Was Lying on Negro

Call—Kansas City, Mo.
11-10-44

LEAVENWORTH, Kas.—Another of those "rape" stories which occurred only in the imagination of the "victim" was told here and then retracted last week.

Mrs. Martha Schnabel, 17-year-old bride of a few weeks, told police on October 23 that she was attacked by a Negro "with a dimple in his chin and razor burns" in her trailer home. The Leavenworth Times, local daily, carried a column-long story on the incident, saying that Negro personnel at nearby Ft. Leavenworth were being checked to see who had been absent from the garrison at the time of the attack.

The young bride was found in her trailer, the newspaper said, unconscious, bound and gagged, although physicians reported that she had not been criminally attacked.

11-10-44

A week later, the Leavenworth Times, in another column-long story in the same position given the first story, carried a story with this headline, "Mrs. Schnabel Admits Attack Did Not Occur."

The alleged "victim" was given opportunity to view many Negro soldiers. She failed to identify any of them. Ft. Leavenworth authorities became suspicious at some of the woman's statements and after another investigation issued the following statement:

"After a thorough investigation, post authorities today received information that the alleged attack case occurring Monday of last week did not occur. The woman claimed that she was attacked by a uniformed Negro at a trailer camp two blocks from the entrance of the reservation. It is believed that the account of the occurrence as originally given by the woman was due to an overwrought nervous condition."

11-10-44

The woman gave no explanation of how she was gagged and bound.

The rumor circulating around the city and the post is that Mrs. Schnabel had a quarrel with her soldier husband and used the "rape" story to regain his affection and affect a reconciliation.

Negro citizens of Leavenworth resent the incident. A typical comment was, "Imagine the result if she had not confessed but had pointed out some innocent soldier. My blood boils when I think of how we people have to suffer as a result of such lies."

Call Conference To Decide What Action To Take In Case Of Woman Raped By 6 Whites

New York Age
11-25-44

A conference will be held under the auspices of The Daily Worker on Saturday at Hotel Theresa, 125th street and Seventh avenue, to determine what to do in the case of Mrs. Recy Taylor, Negro wife and mother of Abbeville, Ala., who was kidnapped and raped on October 3 by six white hoodlums.

According to Eugene Gordon, feature writer for the paper, "She, her husband and father have begged the county authorities to arrest and punish her attackers. She has identified them, but neither county nor state officials have the slightest inclination to do anything. Both county and state blandly ignore Alabama's unwritten law that demands punishment to despoilers of Southern womanhood."

11-25-44

"Florida, for instance, recently arrested, tried and executed three youths charged with raping a woman whose name has never been made public. She had only to say that she had been raped and the whole state legal apparatus was immediately in action. The Florida woman was white, the Alabama woman is black. The Florida woman's alleged attackers were black, the Alabama woman's attackers are white.

"This conference should find ways and means not only of centering nationwide attention on Mrs. Taylor's case and forcing legal ac-

tion, but it should lay a basis for ending this Southern practice of degrading Negro womanhood."

American Board
of Commissioners for Foreign Missions

Foreign Missions Board
of the United Church of Canada

CURRIE INSTITUTE

Training African Leaders for Service in Agriculture, Education, Industries, and Religion

Rev. Gladwyn Murray Childs,
Principal

American Address:
14 Beacon Street
Boston, Mass.

December 13, 1943.

Field Address: Bela Vista
Dondi, Chingufo, (Lobito)
Angola, Africa, via Lisbon

Dear friends:

We do hope that you have not quite given up the idea of hearing from us. Can you forgive the delay and also the inability to answer personally the many of you who have written so interestingly? My last letter was dated July 3, 1942 _ just before I went to Luanda, our capital, for 6 weeks. In June of this year I had to go again, staying 9 weeks this time. It was only after securing recognition of the American Board's legal status and authorization for transfer to the Board of the land titles that I came away by plane. The formalities remaining to be settled in our local courts were considerable but have now nearly all been completed. The amount of time and work involved would not be believed by anyone not familiar with legal procedure in this country.

(39)

This is one of the many tasks added to my regular work in school and to Margaret's in the Hospital, both of which have considerably increased. Our Mission staff continues to decline both in numbers and in health. Several have been invalided home or to South Africa. If the present rate continues, we shall soon fade out like the well-known Chesire cat. Actually we are not far from it, for there are only two members of the Mission whose furlough or retirement is not now due. Lisbon still fails to grant entry permits whether for return from furlough or for new appointees. The sort of thing threatened for Protestant missionaries in South America seems to have been put into effect for Angola. Entry from neighboring territories is more easily arranged, so quite a number of us are going there for 6-months holidays. Our turn comes at the end of the present school year in March. All four of us eagerly look forward to being with Elaine, who we hear, is now quite a young lady. We hear that both transportation and housing facilities are very much crowded, but we hope to find a furnished cottage or flat at a beach town near Durban for perhaps 3 or 4 months. We have a number of friends in Natal and also in Basutoland, in Johannesburg, at Livingstone, and at Elisabethville.

In the rush of this present time, my chief regret is lack of time for real constructive endeavor. Urgent requests for ethnological writing and for articles have had to be put off. There has been very little time, even, for writing lesson material or for translation. The Outline Church History mentioned in a former letter, has finally been translated into Portuguese in Lisbon, in order that it may be published in diglot. For the pastoral candidates and the senior students of the Institute, I have been putting Goodspeed's, "Story of the Bible" into Umbundu. With some help from Mrs. Ennis about two-thirds of the book has been done. I am scheduled to translate or revise the historical books of the Old Testament, but have no idea when it may be possible to get at the work.

The irregularity of the mails make it difficult to keep up with affairs at home. About 4 months ago we received a lot of mail posted between November 1941 and January 1942. On the other hand, an occasional batch comes through as quickly as in peace-time, but most of it takes from 2 to 3 months. We hear that Dr. Veazie Markham, who used to be here with us is now teaching tropical medicine in Brazil. Jack Ennis, our cousin born out here, was in the American forces in England at last report.... Local prices continue to sky-rocket.

Advent is now well-advanced. In daily and Sunday worship with the students our theme just now is "Christmas in the heart". How the world needs this message, both in personal and in collective relationships! May the Christ-Child bring His peace to us all and to all the world before we come again to celebrate his coming!

Yours faithfully, Gladwyn M. Childs.

GMC:IC